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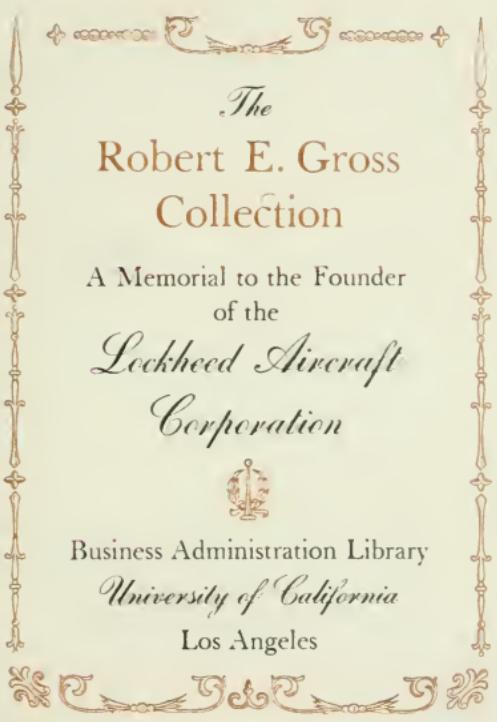
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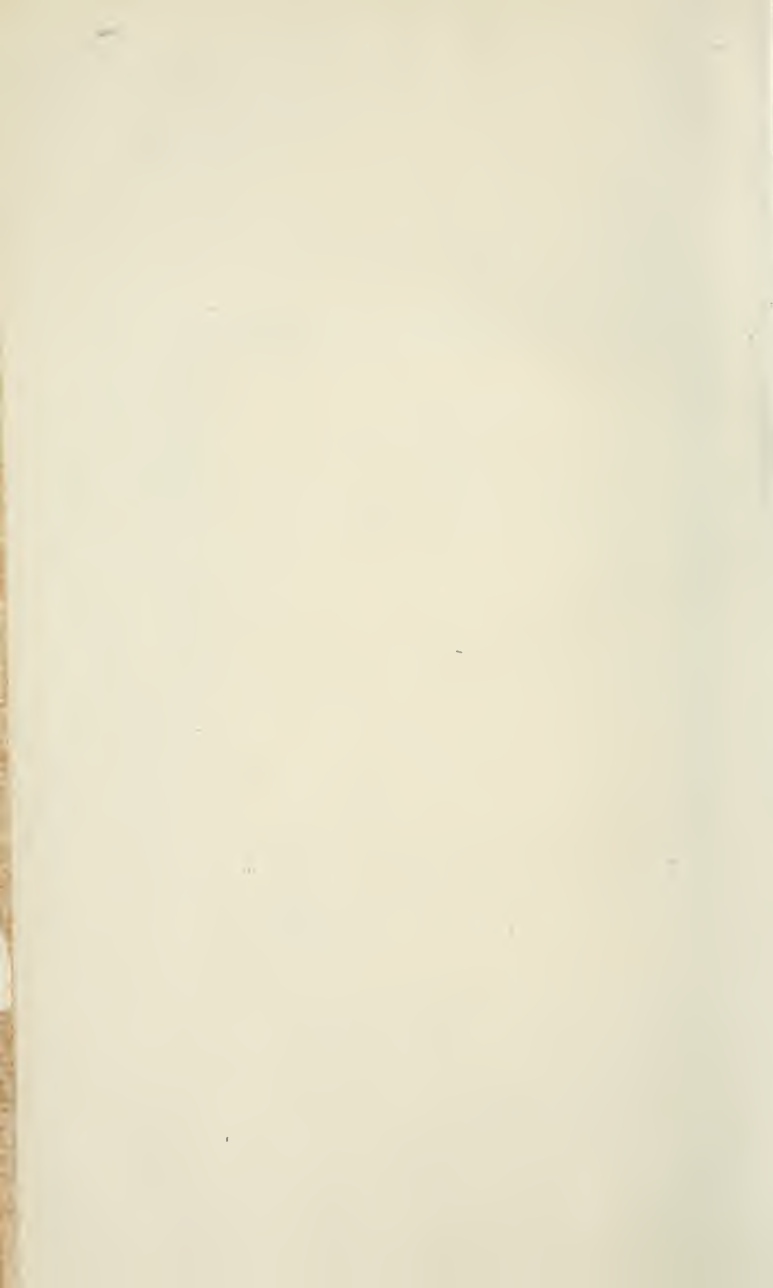
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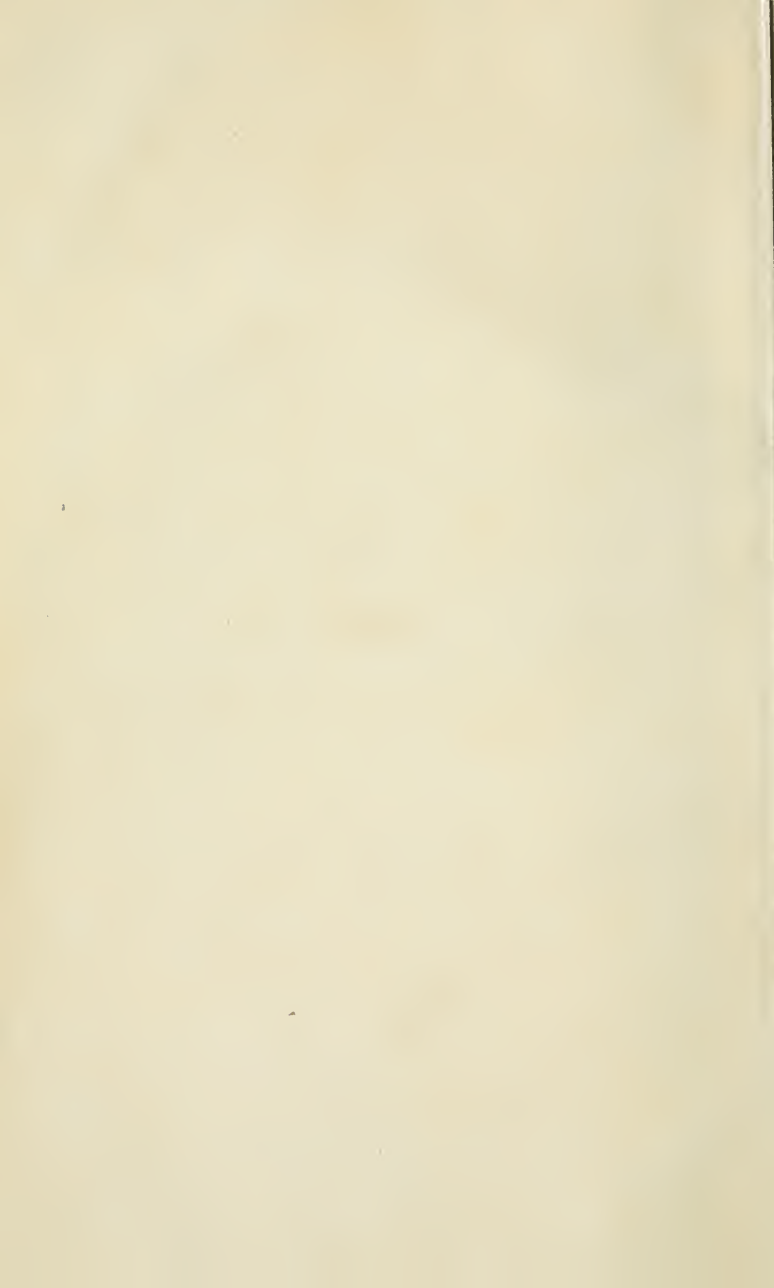


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A N
A C C O U N T
O F S E V E R A L
WORK-HOUSES

F O R
Employing and Maintaining
the P O O R ;

Setting forth

The Rules by which they are Governed,

Their great Usefulness to the Publick,

And in Particular

To the PARISHES where they are Erected.

As also of several

CHARITY-SCHOOLS
For Promoting Work, and Labour.

L O N D O N :

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P R E F A C E.



THOUGH every Reign since the Reformation has produc'd Acts of Parliament for taking Care of the Poor, yet, by one Means or other, the good Intentions of the Legislature have been, in a great measure, defeated.

The Laws which prescribed employing the Poor, promis'd fairest for easing the Publick, as they offer'd a Cure for Idleness, the great Cause and Fuel of Poverty; but the Execution of those Laws has been greatly discouraged by the Difficulties attending the setting the Poor to work: For by that Time the Materials for imploying them, the Waste, and the Charge of Instructors were paid for, the Managers, whether publick or private, were generally brought

into Debt, and had a vast deal of Trouble, but no Thanks for their Pains.

The Failure of most Attempts for employing the Poor, has been generally owing to the expecting too much Profit from their Labour: for, alas! what great Gains can be hop'd for, from old, infirm People, who are past Labour, or young unexperienced Children, who have every Thing to learn?

Many Parishes therefore have of late been so wise, as to be at the whole Expence, which may be occasion'd by any Deficiency in the Produce of the Labour of the Poor; taking Care, at the same Time, that they should be under the Direction of Persons they can confide in for a frugal Management.

*And, wherever Houses have been hired or built, as the * Act of the 9th of K. GEORGE directs, for gathering the Poor into one or more Families, and setting them to Work, under the Inspection of honest Managers, the respective Parishes have found (as may be seen in the Instances collected in the following Treatise,) most, if not all, the Advantages following; viz.*

200 l.

* See an Abstract of this Act at the End of this Account.

Wants, which are now much better provided for in all Respects, both for their Souls and Bodies, than when they liv'd on common Begging, or in a miserable ruinous Cottage, not knowing where to get the next Meal for themselves or their Children.

Beside these Advantages, the introducing among the Poor, Habits of Sobriety, Obedience, and Industry, will secure any Parish from an Entail of Poverty and Idleness, and lay such a Foundation for the future Comfort of their Poor, as will make them useful to one another, and not a little beneficial to the Publick.



200 l. per Annum of the Poor's Rates, under frugal Management, after a House and necessary Accommodations are provided, shall go further in keeping comfortably one or more large Families of Poor, than 3 or 400 l. per Annum, distributed to the like Number of Poor when they live dispers'd.

All friendless Orphans, and Children of the Poor, are in these Houses happily provided for, and put in a Way of being a Blessing, instead of a Burden to their Country.

No Vagabond Poor dare come into, or stay long in a Parish, where such a House is erected.

The Rules of governing such an House, tho' not stricter than what are common in all regular Families, oblige the Poor to keep good Hours; to refrain spending their little Gains in Brandy-Shops and Ale-Houses, to the Destruction of their Health; to be mutually assisting to each other in Sickness, or under the Infirmities of Age; to avoid the Temptations of Pilfering and House-breaking, in order to supply their
Wants,



A N

ACCOUNT

O F T H E

Work-House in *Bishopsgate-street*,
L O N D O N.



SOON after the *Restoration*, in the 13th and 14th Years of the Reign of King *Charles II.* An Act of Parliament pass'd, entitul'd, *An Act for the better Relief of the Poor of this Kingdom*; wherein, among other Things, Provision was made for forming one or more Corporations, in the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, And for Erecting and Governing such Work-House, or Work-Houses, as should be Erected for employing the Poor of those Cities, according to the Intent and Meaning of the said Act.

THE Calamities of the Plague, and Burning of the City of *London*, &c. delay'd the good Effects of this Act, till after the Peace of *Ryswick*, when, in the Year 1698, *April* the 4th, in Order to put the said Act in

B

Execution,

Execution, a Corporation was form'd, consisting of the Lord Mayor for the Time being as President, the Aldermen for the Time being, together with fifty two Citizens, chosen by the Common-Council, to be Assistants; and the said President and Assistants, elected a Deputy-President, and Treasurer, as the said Act directs. And for laying a Foundation of so good a Work, a Supply was granted in *December* following, by an Act of the Common-Council.

IN *August* 1699, the Corporation took a House in *Bishopsgate-street*, and were at great Charges in building and fitting the same up for a Work-House; into which they received from the Church-Wardens such Children as were a Charge to the several Parishes, they paying a Weekly Allowance toward their Maintenance.

IN *November* 1700, they began to receive, on the *Keeper's Side*, Vagabonds and sturdy Beggars; and thus they proceeded, by degrees; it being impracticable to execute all Parts of the Act at once.

THE Corporation, according to the Title of the Act, beginning with the *Relief of the Poor*, and taking in poor Children, whose Necessities People are commonly most apt to pity, the good Fruit that was likely to be produc'd from the Education of such Children, and bringing them up to Labour, rais'd up many Benefactors; and in *October* 1701, the Corporation admitted Children upon the following Terms; every Benefactor that contributed 25*l.* was allow'd to recommend a Child, and in a short time after the setting up this Work-House, the same was regulated and adapted to the several good Ends and Purposes of the Act of Parliament.

THIS Management was approved by the Common-Council, and a second Supply granted in 1702; and the several Orders touching the Matters aforesaid, were confirm'd, and made By-Laws. But afterwards in *November* 1708, it was order'd, that no Child, altho' born within the City of *London*, and Liberties thereof, should be received from any Benefactor, giving a less Sum than 50*l.* yet, that the Charity might not be too strictly confined, it was further or-

order'd, that any Benefactor giving 70*l.* might put in a Child from what Place he thought fit.

THE House is divided into two Parts, one call'd the *Steward's Side*; and the other, the *Keeper's Side*: In the *Steward's Side*, poor Children are taken in from Benefactors, giving 50 or 70*l.* as beforemention'd; and these Children are by that Means, with their Labour, rather a Profit than Charge to the House. On this Side are also taken in such Children, as are a Charge to the several Parishes of this City and Liberties to which they belong, and all of them religiously educated, according to the Church of *England*, and employ'd in spinning Wool, or Flax, or else in sewing or knitting. They are dieted and cloath'd, and duly taken Care of in Sickness by Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, belonging to the House; they are also taught to read, write, and cast Accounts, whereby they are qualify'd for Services, and honest Ways of Livelihood.

IN the other Part, call'd the *Keeper's Side*, Vagabonds, Beggars, Pilferers, lewd, idle, and disorderly Persons, committed by any two of the Governours, have such Relief as is proper for them; and are employ'd in beating Hemp for Twine-Spinners, Hemp-Dressers, Linnen-Weavers, Shoemakers, and other Trades; as also in picking Oakum, and washing Linnen for the Children in the *Steward's Side*.

IN the Year 1713, This House, by reason of some unhappy Differences, was brought under great Discouragements; but, by the Interposition and good Offices of some worthy Citizens, it was kept up; and has been ever since under so prudent a Management, that by a Series of Benefactions, the Weekly Allowances, which were about Ten Years ago *Two Shillings* and *Six-pence* a Week for each Child put in by the respective Parishes within the Liberties of the City of *London*, were afterwards reduc'd to *Two Shillings* a Week, and are now *Eighteen-pence* a Week, for maintaining and teaching every

Child put in by any Church-warden of the Parishes aforefaid; and 'tis hop'd in time, by the Acceffion of Benefactions, the Charge may be reduced much more.

AND tho' the Aft of Parliament for fupporting this Houfe, requires the Common-Council of the City of *London*, upon a Certificate from the Corporation, of their Want of a Supply, to levy the fame on the Citizens from time to time, not exceeding one Year's Rate for the Relief of the Poor; yet in ten Years paft, there has been only half a Tax levied, amounting to 2300, or 2400 pounds, which was wholly laid out in building of the Prifon-part, the Chappel, and other Accommodations for the Houfe.

THE Work-houfe (exclusive of the Chappel and Prifon-part) contains above 200 feet in length, has three Rooms one over another, about 150 feet in length; the loweft of which is the Work-Room for Boys, the fecond for Girls, and the third Room has two Wards for lodging the Boys. The Girls Ward is over the Chappel, which feparates the Work-Houfe from the Prifon-fide.

THERE are now 93 Boys, and 50 Girls, in all 143 Children, taught, cloath'd, and maintain'd in this Houfe: The Work they are imploy'd in, is fpinning of Jerfey; but confidering that 20 or 30 Boys are constantly attending by turns, in the Reading and Writing Schools, about two Hours every Day, *Sundays* excepted, what they earn being about *Two-pence* a Day each Child, does little more than pay the Charge of the Mafter of the Childrens Work, the Under-teachers, the Wheels, and Wafte they make. That out of the Girls, there are ten by Turns kept at the Reading and Sewing School, for making up and mending the Linnen for the Boys and themfelves; and about the fame Number are alfo by Turns imploy'd in knitting and footing the Childrens Stockings, and the reft are employed in fpinning: So that about 85 Wheels ferve for both Boys and Girls.

Note. These Wheels are bought in *Old Bedlam*, for *Sixteen-pence* a-piece; and eight Reels bought there at the same Price, serve the House.

A Gentleman in *Spittle-fields*, concern'd in the Weaving Trade, finds the Wool ready comb'd that imployes the Children, and takes off the Yarn when spun at a *Penny per Skain*, whether fine or coarse, each Skain containing 240 Threads or Turns round the Reel.

The following is a Bill of Fare for every Week :

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Bread and Beer	Beef and Broth	Bread & Butter or Cheese
Monday	Beef-Broth	Pease-Porridge	Ditto
Tuesday	Bread & Butter or Cheese	Rice-Milk	Ditto
Wednesday	Ditto	Plumb-Dumplings	Ditto
Thursday	Ditto	Beef and Broth	Ditto
Friday	Beef Broth	Barley-Broth	Ditto
Saturday	Bread & Butter or Cheese	Milk-Porridge	Ditto

In Summer-time, Pease, Beans, Greens, and Roots are allow'd, as the Season affords them.

The Children attend Prayers twice every Day in the Chappel; and the sturdy Beggars, and loose People, who are now in Number about 60, attend there in a Place by themselves.

By the Account of this Work-House, publish'd at *Easter* 1725, it appears, that there have been, since the Year 1701, educated, discharg'd, and plac'd forth Apprentices

To Officers of Ships, to Trades, and to Services in several good Families,	} 1782
And in the same time there have been receiv'd and discharg'd, of sturdy Vagabonds, Beggars, &c.	

An Account of the Work-House in St. Giles's Cripplegate.

THE Success of the *London* Work-house, and the Work-houses in other Places, lately erected for Employing the Poor, has encouraged the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, in the Lordship and Liberty of *St. Giles Cripplegate*, where they are very numerous, to build an House for receiving and employing them.

THIS House is a commodious new Brick Building, on a Piece of Ground in *Bunhill-Fields*, leas'd of the City for 61 Years, at the Rate of 20 *l. per Annum* Ground-Rent: The Charge of the Building was rais'd by Subscription; and the House was open'd at the Close of the Year 1724, with about 30 Men, Women and Children, who are employ'd in picking of Oakum.

THE Government of it is in the Hands of two Church-Wardens, four Overseers of the Poor, twelve Trustees, and these Gentlemen have appointed a Master and Mistress to live in the House, and take Care for Managing the Stock of Provisions and Materials laid in for Feeding and Employing the Poor in the most frugal Manner, according to the following Rules.

Rules and Orders to be observed by the Master and Mistress of this House.

I. THAT the Master keep a just Account of all Provisions received into the House, and what is each Day expended, and how many Persons provided for.

II. THAT he keep an Account of all Work receiv'd, what is deliver'd to each Person each Day, and what receiv'd back, in Order to know their Earn-

Earnings, and to give an Account to the Trustees for the Time being, or to whom they shall appoint to inspect the Accounts, that they may know the Disbursements of the House, and also the Earnings.

III. THAT the Master and Mistress take Care that the Poor be kept to Work, from *Lady-Day* to *Michaelmas*, from 6 in the Morning to 7 in the Evening; and from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-Day* from 7 to 5, and that they rise by 5, and go to Bed by 9, the Summer half Year, and the Winter half Year by 6, and go to Bed by 8.

IV. THAT they take Care the Provisions be cleanly and well done, and that all Persons have their Allowance at these Hours, *viz.* Breakfast at 9, and half an Hour's Time to eat the same; Dinner at 1, and an Hour's Time allow'd them; their Supper in the Summer half Year at 7, and in the Winter at 6; and the Persons that have not done their Day's Work by Supper, that they work after to finish the same.

V. THAT the Master see all the Men and Boys Candles out each Night, and the Mistress the same by the Women and Girls.

VI. THAT the Mistress take Care of the Washing, and keeping clean of the Boys and Girls, and that their Heads be comb'd every Day; and that she teach them, or cause them to be taught to read: And that every Child have an Hour's Time allow'd them to be instructed to read, and also cause them to learn to spin, or knit, or do some other Business, to keep them from Idleness.

VII. THAT if any poor Persons refuse to work, being able, or mis-behave themselves by fighting, or making a Disturbance, that he or she be kept at half Allowance, or upon Bread and Water; and, at the Expiration of two or three Days, that he or she be complain'd of to some Magistrate, in order to be sent to the House of Correction.

VIII. THAT neither the Master or Mistress buy, sell, or suffer any distill'd Liquors to come into the House;
nor

nor any of the Poor to smoke Tobacco in their Lodgings, or the Work-House: And when any of them are sick or lame, that the Master and Mistress give Notice to the present Officer, that they may have Care taken of them.

IX. THAT, on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* after Breakfast, the Master cause the proper Psalms for the Day, a Chapter in the Old and New Testament, the Litany, with other Prayers for the Day, to be read: And that every *Sunday* at 9 in the Forenoon, the same be read; and such as are able to go to Church, or other Place of Worship, that they go, so they return in Time: And in Case any of them go to any House, or are found loitering their Time away in the Fields, or begging, that the Officer have the Offender sent to Bridewell.

X. THAT the Master and Mistress be under all such Restrictions as shall be thought necessary to be made by the Trustees, or the major Part of them for the Time being, relating to the Poor and Work-House. And the Master and Mistress be subject, if requir'd by the said Officers, or the major Part of them, to make an Affidavit before a Justice of the Peace, that there hath been no Waste or Embezzlement made by them, nor by any other Person or Persons, with their Knowledge or Consent, of any of the Stores or Provisions committed to their Charge: And in Case the Master or Mistress shall not be thought capable of the Trust, that then it shall be in the Power of the said Officers and Trustees, or the major Part of them, upon Notice given to each Officer and Trustee to meet at a Time appointed, signifying to each Person the Occasion of Meeting, to remove the said Master and Mistress, either by giving a Month's Warning to go out, or otherwise to discharge them immediately, and give them a Month's Salary.

*An Account of the Work-House at
St. Mary White-chappel, in
Ayliffe-Street, near Lambeth-
Street, Goodman's Fields.*

June 3, 1725.

THE Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of this Parish, being convinc'd that the common Method of Relieving them might be much improv'd, for the Comfort of the Poor, and for saving Money to the Parish, propos'd to the Vestry to make an Experiment of taking the more necessitous Poor into one House, where they might be under the Care of a discreet Man and his Wife; which being agreed to, the Vestry added as many other experienc'd Gentlemen of the Parish to the Church-Wardens and Overseers, as made their Number 31 Trustees for this Undertaking. These Gentlemen took an House for 16 Years, from *Michaelmas* 1724, and fitted it up with two large Rooms, one to work in, the other to refresh in, a Kitchen, a Wash-House, an Apartment for the Steward, and 4 Wards, with Lodgings for receiving 130 Men, Women, and Children, two in a Bed.

WHEN this was done, they gave Publick Notice to the Upholsterers and Salesmen of this and the neighbouring Parishes, to send in Proposals for furnishing them, at the cheapest Rates, with Bedding, &c. necessary for the House.

AFTER this, the Trustees gave publick Notice to all such as would furnish them with wholesome Provisions at the best Rate, and thereupon they agreed with

A Brewer, for Beer, at 8s. a Barrel, 36 Gallons to the Barrel;

A Baker, for Household Bread, at a penny a Pound.

A Butcher, for Beef, at 7 Farthings a Pound.

A Milk-Woman, for Milk, at 10 Quarts for a Shilling.

A Cheese-Monger, for Cheese, at 3 *d.* a Pound ; and Butter at 5 *d.* a Pound.

THEY agreed also with a Steward to bespeak Provisions, &c. daily or weekly, as wanted, and to keep an Account of all sent in by these Tradesmen, as well as other Expences of the House ; and that his Wife should direct the Affairs of the Kitchen, and keeping the House clean.

THE Trustees then enquir'd into the Circumstances of their Parish Pensioners, and gave Notice to the most helpless of them to come to this House, or that they would be discharg'd from the Parish Books, as the Act of Parliament directs.

20 Men and Women from 40 to 80 Years of Age, and 8 Children, Boys and Girls, from 4 to 8 Years old, came into the House about *Lady-Day* 1725. and more are daily adding to the Number ; while others chose to struggle with their Necessities, and to continue in a starving Condition, with the Liberty of haunting the Brandy-Shops, and such like Houses, rather than submit to live regularly in Plenty.

NONE are compell'd to come into this House, that want only a little present Relief, while they or their Children are under a Fit of Sicknefs, or other Misfortunes. Nor are any of those that do come into the House, oblig'd to work beyond their Strength, or more than is consistent with their Health : And if any are sick, they are carefully nurs'd by those that are well, and an Apothecary finds the House with all necessary Medicines for 12 *l. per Annum*. If any are destitute of Apparel, they are provided at the Publick Charge, by the Trustees. The Washing is all done in the House, and the Women make and mend all the Linnen.

THOUGH

THOUGH much Profit could not be expected from the Labour of People, old or infirm, or under Age, and who were all to learn the Business they were to be employ'd in; the Trustees took into Consideration how to set them to work in some easy Business, consistent with their Strength and Unskilfulness; and resolv'd, that they should work for nothing, for any body that would instruct them to work till their Hands were in. Upon which, a Weaver in the Neighbourhood provided them with Hempen Thread, call'd *Russia Yarn*, to wind upon Rills for the Use of the Sack-cloth and Sail-cloth Weavers.

So many People work at this, as wind off about 60 pound weight in a Day.

THE same Gentleman finds *Junk* (Pieces of old Cable) to employ others in picking Oakum; about 12 work at this, and pick about 100 Weight in a Week.

THE Children are employ'd in learning to read, and picking Oakum: and the rest in making the Beds, and keeping the House clean.

THE Weekly Bill of Fare is much the same as in other Places, only they have three Flesh Days in the Week, *viz. Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.*

THE Steward is allow'd to give each Person daily,

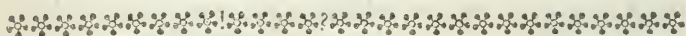
1 Pound of Bread.

1 Quart of Beer.

2 Ounces of Cheese, or more if they want it; beside Milk-Porridge, Pease-Porridge, Beef-Broth, or Burgow, when they don't eat Flesh.

On Flesh-Days, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Pound of Beef is allow'd each Person; according to which Proportions, the Steward lays in what is necessary for the House from Day to Day, or Week to Week, from the Tradesmen under Contract with the Trustees, and his Notes for Provisions being given to each Tradesman, are carry'd to their Cashier, and paid off at stated Times, after being compar'd with the Steward's Book. By which Method, it seems almost impossible for the

Steward or Tradesmen to impose upon the Trustees, or the Trustees, if they could be so inclin'd, upon the Parishioners. And the great Humanity and Tenderness with which the Poor, under their Care, are treated, makes their Condition, in many Respects, more comfortable than some of their Neighbours.



Wapping Hamlet, in Stepney Parish.

June 1725.

THE Vestry of *Wapping Hamlet* taking into their Consideration the Means of imploying the Poor, and making better Provision for the truly necessitous, than had been usually made, empower'd the Church-Warden, the Six Overseers of the Poor of this Hamlet, with five other Gentlemen, to act as Trustees, for erecting or hiring a commodious House for receiving and imploying such Poor as should be sent to it: Accordingly, in the Year 1723, they hired and fitted up, with convenient Rooms and Chimneys, a large Ware-House in *Virginia Street*, near *Ratcliff-High-Way*, where

40 Old Men and Women, and about

20 Children, are conveniently lodg'd, dieted, and imploy'd in picking of Oakum; by which Management so much is sav'd to the Hamlet, that they are enlarging the Accommodations for receiving the Poor.

Their Bill of Fare is much as in other Places, only they have 4 Flesh Days in the Week, viz. *Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.*

Lime-

Limehouse Hamlet, Stepney.

June 1725.

HERE is a very handsome and commodious Brick-House, built 25 Years since, for lodging the Poor of this Hamlet, but was not apply'd to the present Use, till after the Act of the 9th of King *GEORGE* was pass'd, to encourage the setting up Workhouses; when, by a Subscription among the principal Inhabitants, it was fitted up to receive the Poor, and was open'd *April* 28. 1724.

THE Number of Poor now in it is as follows:

23 Men and Women,

7 Boys and Girls,

In all 30.

Above half of whom are unfit for Labour, but about a dozen of them are employ'd in picking Oakum, at which they earn about 4 or 5 Shillings a Week in the whole, which is apply'd toward the Maintenance of the House.

N. B. Old Ropes are bought for 5 s. the hundred Weight, and the Oakum is sold for 12 s. the hundred Weight.

THE Steward of the House is a Pensioner of the Hamlet, and is allow'd 5 l. 4 s. *per Annum*, beside his Maintenance and Lodging, &c. in the House. But the principal Care is in 8 Trustees and a Cashier, some of whom visit the House constantly once, sometimes twice a Week, buy Provisions, and give all other necessary Directions.

As to Diet, they have Flesh four Times a Week, and with it such Roots as are in Season: And the

Stew-

Steward having been a Sea-faring Person, feeds them after the Method us'd on Ship-board ; that is, by joyning 4 of them in a Mess, and the Meat is boil'd in three Pound pieces, one of which is a Mess for 4 Persons ; and the same Course is observed for Milk, Bread, Beer, &c.

By this Means a poor Person is maintained at the Rate of 2 *s.* 10 *d.* or 3 *s.* per Week, including all petty Disbursements, and incidental Charges, even Firing and Lodging not excepted, for the Hamlet pay 10 *l.* per *Annum* Ground-Rent.

THE Children in this House are all young and helpless, and therefore are sent to a School in the Neighbourhood, at the publick Charge, till they are 8 Years of Age ; and then they are bound out Apprentices till the Age of 24, according to Act of Parliament.

N. B. THIS Hamlet, with some Addition, will become a distinct Parish, as soon as the Church now building is finish'd.



Mile-

Mile-End, Old Town Hamlet, Stepney.

June 1725.

A Strong Brick Building near *Stepney Church*, (formerly a Musick-House of no good Repute, and for that Reason suppress'd by the Magistrates) was fitted up and open'd at *Lady-Day* last, for receiving the Poor of this Hamlet; and there are now in it,

6 Women,

12 Boys, and

5 Girls,

who are all imployed at picking Oakum, under the Care of a poor Man and his Wife, who are allow'd 5 s. per Week with their Lodging and Maintenance in the House.

THE whole is govern'd by Six Trustees, one of which at present is the Church-Warden of the Hamlet: Each of them have the Charge of the House for a Month, to buy Provisions, visit the House, &c.

THEY have Flesh three Times a Week: Their Breakfasts and Suppers are Milk, and Bread, Cheese and Butter.

THE Charity-School for 21 Boys and 10 Girls is in the lower Part of the House, and the Mistress of the Girls is allow'd an Apartment and Maintenance in the House; and such of the Children as are Parish Orphans, are set to Work, as well as taught to read and write.

N. B. BEFORE the Inhabitants of the Hamlet pitch'd upon this Method, they had upwards of 70 Poor, who received Pensions; but all of them, except six Women, have chose at present to subsist by their own Industry, rather than come into the House.

Rat-

Ratcliff-Hamlet, Stepney,

A Lodging-House for the Poor.

June 1725.

THE Inhabitants of this Hamlet paying upwards of 70*l.* *per Annum* House-Rent for the Poor, resolv'd, about two Years since, upon fitting up a large House in *London-Street*, belonging to the Hamlet, and now called the *Town-House*, for lodging all the Poor who received Pensions, and were before lodg'd at the publick Charge.

THERE are now upwards of 30 poor People, all Women, except two Men, in the House, who are allow'd each of them 12*d.* a Week Pension, and the Liberty to get what they can by their own Industry, either at Home by Spinning, winding Silk, &c. or by going Abroad to wash, scour, sell Fish, or do any Thing else to get a Penny. And as for such Poor as will not be lodg'd in this House, a Deduction of 6*d.* a Week is made from each of their Pensions, towards the Repairs, &c. of the House.

THERE is a Mistress, and an Assistant or two, who take Care to keep the House clean, and in Order, and are particularly charged to see the Poor all in Bed, and their Fires and Candles out, at 9 a Clock at Night, or soon after.

Note. THE Vestry of the Hamlet have a Design, at the next Quarterly Meeting, to set all the Poor to work, and wholly maintain them.

Of the Grey-Coat-Hospital in Westminster.

A Proposal being made to the Vestry at *St. Margaret's Westminster*, about the Year 1701, they agreed to let the Trustees of the *Grey-Coat-School* have a large House belonging to the Parish Rent-free for Seven Years; which Grant has been renew'd from time to time ever since, for the Reception of as many of the Parish-Children (with the usual Pensions given to their Nurses) as the Trustees would undertake to maintain and imploy with Work.

At first the Trustees took in the 50 Boys belonging to the Charity-School, and at several Times afterwards so many Boys and Girls as have sometimes increas'd the Number of Children to above 130, which is the Number of them at present, including those on the Parish Account, and have set them all to Work; some upon spinning of Wool; others upon Housewifry, sewing, knitting, &c. And the Incomes of the Charity, with their Earnings, are appointed towards finding them in Diet, Lodging, and other Necessaries: The Management whereof succeeded so well, that, in order to lay a more solid Foundation for its Support and Maintenance, Her late Majesty was pleas'd, in the 5th Year of her Reign, to incorporate the said School, and to make the Trustees One Body Politick, by the Name of *The Governours of the Grey-Coat-Hospital in Tothil-Fields, of the Royal Foundation of Queen ANNE.*

THE better to give an Idea of the good Management of this Working-Hospital, the Reader shall first be presented with the Particulars of the Annual Expence for supporting it, as computed by a Medium taken from the Books of the House for four Years,

from 1720, to 1723 inclusive; and then with the Means of defraying this Expence.

The Annual Expence.

For Repairs and Furniture, viz.

	L.	s.	d.
The Bricklayer —————	26	19	00
Carpenter —————	9	09	00
Glazier —————	4	12	03
Emptying of Vaults ———	3	11	09
Smith —————	2	12	00
For Spinning Tackle ———	2	15	00
Turnery Wares —————	3	06	06
The Brazier —————	1	15	03
Clockmaker —————	0	11	00
Paviour —————	2	02	00
Plummer —————	1	17	06
For Blankets and Coverlids	6	00	06
Mopps —————	1	00	00
	66	11	09

For Cloathing.

For Woollen Cloth —————	26	01	03
Linnen Cloth —————	48	08	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Leather Breeches —————	10	14	04 $\frac{1}{2}$
New Shoes, Mending, &c. ———	55	03	06
The Taylor —————	7	16	07 $\frac{1}{2}$
For Stuffs —————	1	19	00
Yarn —————	11	09	00
Caps for the Boys ———	1	13	08 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bodices and Stomachers ———	2	04	09
Shoe Buckles —————	0	16	06
	166	07	06 $\frac{3}{4}$

Carry'd forward 232 19 03 $\frac{3}{4}$

Brought forward 232 19 03 $\frac{3}{4}$ *Provisions.*

	L.	s.	d.
The Baker —————	156	02	09
Butcher —————	122	19	03
Cheefemonger —————	103	17	03
Milk-woman —————	17	02	01 $\frac{1}{2}$
Soap-Boiler —————	35	16	06
Corn-Chandler —————	16	02	00
Tallow-Chandler —————	11	19	00
Coal-Merchant —————	25	15	00
Excise of Small Beer —	11	18	00 $\frac{1}{4}$
Apothecary —————	14	09	09
			516 01 07 $\frac{3}{4}$

Books.

The Bookfeller —————	8 00 07 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Apprentices.

With Apprentices —————	57 11 04 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Incidents.

The Book of petty Disbursements —————	49 13 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
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Salaries and Wages.

The Master and Steward —	40 00 00
The Miftrefs and Matron —	20 00 00
The Collector, Singing-Ma- fter, and Messenger, at 5 l. each }	15 00 00
Three Nurfes at 5 l. each —	15 00 00
Two Spinning Women at ditto	10 00 00
The Cook and Landry-Maid } at ditto ————— }	10 00 00
	110 00 00

974 06 09 $\frac{3}{4}$

It remains now to give an Account how the Expence of the House is defray'd by the Produce of their Labour, and the charitable Contributions of well disposed Persons.

Annual Receipts.

THE Materials for employing the Children in Spinning, are furnished by a Wool-Merchant in <i>Long Lane, Southmark</i> ; who pays 1 s. 2 d. per Pound, one with another, for working it up, which Annually amounts to about	l. s. d.
	80 00 00

THE Casual Benefactions by Gifts and Legacies, — — — — —	} 894 00 00
COLLECTION at St. <i>Margaret's Church-Doors</i> , — — — — —	
SUBSCRIPTIONS and Rents, amount to about <i>per Annum</i> . — — — — —	
	974 00 00

By the foregoing Account of Disbursements, it may be observed, that 130 poor Children of this Parish are not only instructed in the Principles and Duties of Christianity, but also in the Means of getting a Livelihood by their own Labour, and entirely Cloath'd and Maintain'd; to which, adding the Maintenance of the Steward, Matron, and ten Servants, necessary for keeping the House in Order, the Persons being in all 142, the whole Expence comes to 6 l. 17 s. 3 d. *per Annum*, or about 2 s. 7 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ a Week each, exclusive of the Profits by their Labour; which, according to the above Computation, reduces the Charge to about 2 s. 5 d. a Week for each Person.

AND that it may appear how well they are provided for in the Article of Food, the Reader is presented with the following Weekly Bill of Fare,
Sun-

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Bread & Butter or Cheese	Beef, Broth and Pease	Bread & Butter or Cheese
Monday	Ditto	Bread and Butter or Cheese	Ditto
Tuesday	Each a half-Peny Roll	As Sunday	Ditto
Wednesday	As Sunday	Fruментy	Ditto
Thursday	A half-Peny Roll	As Sunday	Ditto
Friday	As Sunday	Pease-Porridge	Ditto
Saturday	A half-Peny Roll	Milk-Porridge	Ditto

N. B. They are allow'd Beer at every Meal, without any Limitation.

AND as a Proof of the great Benefit of this Hospital to the Parish, there has been put out at the 10th of January 1724-25. since its Foundation, to Apprenticeships and Services 391. And those who have had Servants from it, have given that Testimony of the good Fruit of the Habit of Industry acquir'd by the Children under this Discipline, that they have declar'd, they would much rather take a Servant from hence for nothing, than to have Money with one from those Nurseries for Children, where there is no Work added to their Learning.



St. Giles's in the Fields.

THE Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, in the Parish of *St. Giles's in the Fields*, having caus'd an Estimate to be made of the State of their Poor, and the Allowances given to them, the same was as follows.

Poor

*Poor Persons.**Yearly Allowances.*

		<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
162	All above 70 Years of Age. ———	750	00	00
126	Parents overburthen'd with Children, ——— ——— ———	600	00	00
183	Children, whose Parents are dead, or run away, ——— ——— ———			
70	Sick at Parish-Nurses, ———	600	00	00
300	more, Lame, Blind, Mad, Infirm, &c. of different Ages, ———	1200	00	00
	Incidental Charges, as Surgeons, Apothecaries Bills, Cloaths for Hospitals, &c. at least ———			
		250	00	00

841

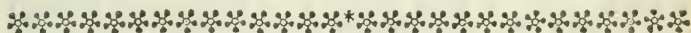
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THIS Calculation, and the dreadful Prospect of its increasing rather than decreasing upon the Methods hitherto used for relieving the Poor, put the Parish upon Measures for Employing the Poor, and assembling them into one Family, under the Care of one or more proper Managers.

THIS having been propos'd, in a Case printed and distributed *Anno* 1724. rais'd so many Benefactions among the wealthy Parishioners, for building an House for the Purpose, that without any new Tax on the Parish, the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor have been enabled to purchase a large House near *Broad St. Giles's*, which they have enlarg'd with many Accommodations, for Lodging, Dieting and Employing several Hundreds of both Sexes of the Poor. An Infirmary for receiving the Sick, is added, where they may be provided with all Necessaries; and a few Years Experience will shew what Advantages will accrue to the Parish by this Method of taking Care of the Poor.

St. Martins in the Fields.

THE Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor in this Parish, considering that one Consequence of the Success of the House erected in *St. Giles's*, would be the Discharge of many idle, vagrant Poor, who would of course resort to the neighbouring Parishes, where the like Care was not taken; have caus'd a Work-House, for employing the Poor, to be erected on the Church-Yard, near *St. Martin's Library*, and the Building is in a good Forwardness.



St. James's, Westminster.

THE Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor in this Parish, that they may keep Pace with their Neighbours, in a regular Provision for the Poor, have taken Measures for erecting a Work-House in the Burying-Ground near *Poland Street*. Besides which, there is built a strong commodious Fabrick in *Burlington Gardens*, near *Hanover-Square*, which was open'd at *Lady-day 1725*. for the Reception of the Girls School in the Parish, where they are lodg'd, boarded, and set to Work at Spinning Flax, &c. Knitting, Sewing, Washing, and such other Parts of Housewifery, as may prepare them to be good Servants. And as the Minister and Gentlemen in the Parish have unanimously espous'd the Promoting this Foundation, there is good Reason to hope the Success of it will answer Expectation.

*A Letter from a Gentleman at
Greenwich, to his Friend at
London, concerning the Girls
School of that Place.*

S I R,

Greenwich, May 4. 1724.

IN the Year 1700, several Charitable Ladies of this Town, join'd their Subscriptions for setting up a School for Teaching and Cloathing 30 Girls. Some Time after a Propofal was made to the faid Gentlemen, that if they pleas'd to allow the Charge that was ufually allow'd for Cloathing the Children, to be laid out in Materials for setting them to Work, the Miftrefs might teach the Children to make their own Cloaths; which would have this Advantage in it, that tho' nothing might be fav'd in the Charge, yet the Children, by being inur'd to Labour, would be better prepar'd for Services in the Families where they might afterwards be plac'd. A Tryal of this Propofal for one Year was foon resolv'd on, and the Succels was fuch, that it has been continu'd, with fome Improvements, ever fince.

THE Gentlewomen, who are Trustees, have a Treasurer chofen among themfelves; and the Account of Expences of this School, is kept in fo regular a Manner, as to be worthy the Imitation of other Schools.

IN 1716. The School was in fuch Reputation, that the Trustees were enabled, by a Collection at the Church-Doors, to augment the Children from 30 to 40. And the Collection has been yearly continued ever fince for keeping up that Number: So that fince the School was firft fet up, about 200 Children have gone out to Services in private Families; and

on

no sooner is there a Vacancy in the School, but Interest is made by Poor Parents to get another in; so pleas'd are they with the Management of it, tho' at first, they were much averse to it.

BEFORE an Account is given of the Method of Employing them, it will undoubtedly be acceptable to you, to be inform'd of some of the Methods us'd in Governing this School. The Trustees for directing it, wisely judging that Shame might have a better Effect on the Minds of their own Sex, than Fear; have order'd the Mistress to punish them rather with what may excite their Modesty, than their Dread of corporal Punishment. In order to this, the Names of the Children are all enter'd on a Table, hung up in the School; against each Name there are seven Holes, with a Peg in the first of them. When a Child commits a Fault, the Peg is remov'd one Hole from her Name, and she is admonish'd accordingly. Upon the second Offence, she is led up to the Table; and, upon removing the Peg to another Hole from her Name, admonish'd again, with an Injunction to get a Psalm, or a Piece of a Chapter by Heart, which the Child must take Care to do, or the Peg is carried on to a fourth or fifth Hole, by which she is look'd upon as a high Criminal upon Record in the School, till some Atonement by Task, or otherwise, has prevail'd with the Mistress to remove the Peg back again, and to wipe out all past Faults.

If the Hearts of the Children are not melted by this Usage, the Mistress proceeds to greater Severity, by pinning a Horn-Book, or a Rod upon the Child, according to the Nature of the Offence: But for high Crimes, such as profaning God's Name, Lying, or Pilfering, they are dress'd up in a Fool's Cap and Coat, and made to sit in the middle of the School for an Hour or more, which they have in great Abhorrence. And if they have pilfer'd of any Person out of the School, they are made to go

publickly in that Dress, and ask Pardon of the Person offended, which they do with great Reluctance; but this they rather do, than be turn'd out of the School, as they must be, if they don't comply with the Rules of it.

THUS the Mistress has seldom Occasion to proceed to severer Punishments, and the Children acquire under this Discipline such a Tenderneſs of giving Offence, as, through God's Grace, may remain with them ever after; and where they have been put out, the Modesty and Dutifulness with which they serve, has very much recommended them.

An Account of the Materials for Employing the Children of this School, beside their Learning to Read.

THE Mistress buys the following Materials, to be spun, knit, or sew'd by the Children for their Cloaths, viz.

Wool in <i>London</i> for 13 d. per Pound, ready dress'd, and about 100 Pound Weight, one Year with another, serves for making Gowns and Petticoats for 40 Children, which at 13 d. per Pound, comes to, —————	L. s. d. 05 08 04
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This, being spun by the Children, is put out to a Weaver in <i>London</i> , who has 4d. per Yard, for Weaving half Yard broad Stuff; which, as was said, suffices for Cloathing 40 Children for the Woollen Part, and makes about 560 Yards, which at 4 d. per Yard, costs —————	09 06 08
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Note. About 14 Yards make a Gown and Petticoat, but there being a Remainder of last Years Weaving, there were only 416 Yards wove this Year.

Carried forward

14 15 00

Note.

Brought forward 14 15 00

Flax in *Southwark*, ready prepar'd for the Wheel, there is bought 80 Pound Weight; which, being spun by the Children, serves to make so much Thread, as when wove, makes Linnen enough for the Childrens Shifts one Year, which at 8 *d.* per Pound comes to, ———— } 02 13 04.

THIS Thread is put into the Hands of a Weaver in the Country, who weaves it about Ell-wide for 8 *d.* an Ell, and it generally makes 83 Ells more or less, which at 8 *d.* per Ell, comes to } 02 15 04
Whitening the same Number of Ells, at 4 *d.* per Ell, comes to, ———— } 01 07 08

Note. Each Girl is allow'd six Shifts in four Years, and all their Linnen is made up by themselves.

160 Yards of *Russia* or *Silesia* Linnen, serve to make 80 Aprons, for one Year's Wear, which at 6 *d.* per Yard, comes to, ———— } 04 00 00

45 Ells of finer Linnen, serve for 80 Caps and Bands for a Year's Wearing, which at 20 *d.* per Ell, comes to, } 03 15 00

10 Yards of Muslin for Borders at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per Yard, ———— } 01 05 00

30 Yards of Dy'd Linnen to line the Bodies and Sleeves of their Gowns at 12 *d.* per Yard, comes to, ———— } 01 10 00

Carried forward 32 01 04

Brought

Brought forward 32 01 04

70 Yards of Red Bays are bought every other Year, for under Petticoats, which are made by the Children; and at 20 <i>d.</i> per Yard come to 05 16 08. the half of which for one Year's Wear, is	02 18 04
6 Pounds of Cotton Thread, at 3 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> per Pound, serves a Year for Gloves, being knit by the Children, which at 3 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> per Pound, come to, ———	00 18 06
10 Pounds of Blue Worsted at 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per Pound, serve to make 40 Pair of Stockings, knit by the Children, which come to, ——— ——— ———	01 15 00

Note. Every other Year 5 Pounds of Worsted suffice to new Foot their Stockings.

80 Pair of Shoes serve one Year, at 2 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> ——— ——— ———	09 00 00
40 Pair of Pattens every other Year, suffice for the School, one half at 12 <i>d.</i> and the other at 10 <i>d.</i> which come to 01 16 08. and the half of that for one Year, is ——— ———	00 18 04
10 Pair of Leather Bodices and Stomachers, are annually bought for the School at 2 <i>s.</i> per Pair, which come to, ——— ——— ———	01 00 00

Total 48 11 06

BESIDE the Articles above-mentioned, so much blue Camlet is bought at 14 *d.* per Yard, as serves for making riding Hoods for the Childrens Use in wet Weather, which remain in the School till they are worn out; and several Materials, as Needles, Thread, Ferret, and other things, are allow'd to the Girls for

for making and mending their Cloaths. And as for the Article of Wheels, about 26 have serv'd the School since it was open'd, which are bought at 16 *d.* a Piece in *Old Bedlam*.

THUS, you see the whole Charge of well Cloathing 40 Girls, annually comes to 48 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* which is 1 *l.* 4 *s.* 3 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ for one Girl; in which Expencc, if what is sav'd by their Labour be not considerable, yet the Advantage accruing to the Children, by the Share they have in making and mending their Cloaths, as it makes them good Servants and good Housewives, is not to be express'd.

THE most experienc'd Spinners are put to spinning *Linnen*, that as little Waste might be made as possible; and the Beginners are put to spin *Woollen* first, which necessarily occasions some bad Work; this is laid by, and wove by it self, to be made up into Cloaths for the Children who are Beginners, till their Hands are come better in.

OUT of the Childrens Labour upon the Materials before mentioned, there is a Reserve of fine strip'd Woollen Stuff, which is apply'd to the following Use.

THE Children, when they go to Service, are allow'd to take their School-Cloaths with them; and if they behave themselves well, at the End of the first six Months, there is given to them a striped Gown and Petticoat, out of the reserved Stock aforesaid, and 20 Shillings.

THE Trustees of this School, purposely avoid binding any of the Children out Apprentices, choosing rather to place them out to a Year's Service for 25 or 30 Shillings Wages; and if their Behaviour be such as recommends them, they are continu'd in Service a Year longer, for which they are allow'd 40 Shillings by the Families where they serve, and for a third Year 50 Shillings.

It must be observ'd, that the better to qualify these Children for Housewifery, the Mistress makes Choice of two or three of them to wash the School, wash and mend *Linnen*, scour and wash Dishes, and do
such

such other Business, as the School affords Scope for; And these Children, when their Hands are brought into that Sort of Work, are again reliev'd by two or three others, at the Discretion of the Mistress.

ABOUT four Years in this School, qualify the Children for Service; and if it happen that any of these Children, by the Death or Removal of their Master or Mistress, should be out of Place, they are allow'd to return to School, to assist in Spinning, and such other Business as they are capable of, till they can be provided with another Service; and are allow'd out of the School Fund as their Labour deserves.

BUT tho' this Provision is made to keep them out of Idleness, there is so great a Call for Servants out of this School, that they seldom lie long upon Hand, especially if the Children have distinguished themselves by their Behaviour.

I have been the more particular in describing the Management of this School, because the Ladies, who have the Oversight of it, seem to have carry'd it to the utmost Perfection, so as to enable the Children to shift honestly by their own Industry, if it should be their Lot to be cast into any Part of the Kingdom where they might be friendless. And whoever will take the Trouble to visit the School, will with Pleasure see a Proof of what has been said; a Mistress governing with as little Severity as possible, and the Children applying themselves to learn all that is taught in the School, with the utmost Chearfulness; and the Employments aforesaid not at all interfering with their learning to Read, and say the Church-Catechism, and attending the publick Prayers of the Church, every Day in the Year.

I am,

S I R, &c.

A second Letter from a Gentleman at Greenwich to his Friend at London.

S I R,

Greenwich, Aug. 13. 1724.

I Am glad to acquaint you, that beside the Benefit redounding to this Place formerly mentioned, there is a generous Attempt for employing the poor People of both Sexes in this Parish.

It being observ'd that the Poor were very numerous, and cost about 800 *l.* to the Parish annually for supporting them; Two honourable Gentlemen of the Town offer'd to build a commodious House for Lodging and Dieting all those Poor, provided the Parish would consent to dispose of their Weekly Allowances under such a Management, as might, with the Produce of their Labour, wholly maintain them.

THE Parishioners, taking the same into their Consideration, thankfully accepted of this Offer, and submitted the Direction of it to such Management, as the said Gentlemen should prescribe.

MR. *Matthew Marryott*, of *Olney* in *Buckinghamshire*, having, with great Success, directed the setting up Houses of Maintenance for the Poor in *Buckinghamshire*, and other Counties, was invited to *Greenwich*, to propose a Plan, by which the like might be done there. Accordingly, this Summer, a commodious House has been built near the Church, at the Charge of the Honourable Gentlemen aforesaid; and at *Midsummer*, all such Poor, as receiv'd Weekly Pensions from the Parish, were admitted into it, to the Number of 90 odd, and are at present employ'd in picking of Oakum, winding Silk for the Throwsters,
Spin-

Spinning Jersey, and such other Work as they are capable of, under Mr. *Marryott's* Direction.

THIS Undertaking being in its Infancy, it does not yet appear what will be the Success of it; but one good Effect it has already had, *viz.* That those that are absolutely necessitous, are better provided for than they were before; and many of those who were before burthensome to the Parish, have exerted themselves, so as to live by their own Industry, to avoid giving that Burthen; by which, the Parish have already sav'd considerably. And it has prov'd an effectual Means to drive Beggars out of the Town, notwithstanding the People in this House are lodg'd and dieted in so commodious a Manner as they are.

I am,

SIR, &c.

P. S. THEY are furnish'd with old Cable cut into Pieces, commonly called *Junk*, from the King's Yard at *Deptford*, to be pick'd into Oakum, for which they allow the Work-house 4 s. per hundred weight.

THE Bill of Fare for a Week.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Bread and Cheese	Beef and Broth	Bread and Cheese
Monday	Beef Broth	Hasty Pudding	The same
Tuesday	Milk Porridge	Plumb Pudding	The same
Wednesday	Milk Porridge	Beef and Broth	The same
Thursday	Beef Broth	Rice Milk	The same
Friday	Milk Porridge	Beef and Broth	The same
Saturday	Beef Broth	Hasty Pudding	The same

*A Letter from a Gentleman at
Maidstone in Kent, to his
Friend in London.*

S I R,

• *Maidstone, Octob. 26. 1724.*

THE Workhouse at *Maidstone* is a large and handsome Building of three Stories high, ninety one feet in Length, and twenty one in Depth, with a large Kitchin thrown behind. It was built by a Gentleman of this Town, in the Year 1720; and is capable of receiving all the Poor of the Parish, tho' at present there are only seventeen Women, five Men, and eighteen Children residing in it. Of these there are only three Women, and eight Children able to work; who are employ'd at present in spinning Worsted, and have earn'd from *Easter* last to the fourteenth Day of this Month, eighteen Pounds and eleven Shillings; while the whole Expence for the House in the same time, has been ninety nine Pounds, and fifteen Shillings.

BUT beside the Poor maintain'd in the Work-house, there are many others who receive weekly Pay from the Parish; and therefore our Poors Rate for this Year, will amount to about five hundred and thirty Pounds; and yet, notwithstanding this Abuse of maintaining so many of the Poor by a weekly Allowance of Money, we are very great Gainers by our Work-house. For of the two immediate Years before the House was built, the Poors Rate in one came to nine hundred, twenty and nine Pounds; and in the other, to one thousand and sixty two; and thereabout it had stood for many Years. So that you will observe, that tho' we receive but half the Benefit of our Work-house, by maintaining but half our Poor in it, yet we save

pretty near five hundred Pounds a Year, under so irregular and faulty a Management. For the Advantage of a Work-house does not only consist in this, that the Poor are maintain'd at less than half the Expence which their weekly Pay amounted to, but that very great Numbers of lazy People, rather than submit to the Confinement and Labour of the Work-house, are content to throw off the Mask, and maintain themselves by their own Industry. And this was so remarkable here at *Maidstone*, that when our Work-house was finish'd, and publick Notice given that all who came to demand their weekly Pay, should immediately be sent thither, little more than half the Poor upon the List came to the Overseers to receive their Allowance.

WERE all the Poor in our Town oblig'd to live in the Work-house, I believe we might very well maintain them for three hundred and fifty Pounds a Year at the utmost. But many of them find Interest enough to receive their usual weekly Pay, and get themselves excus'd from living in the House. And thus it will happen more or less in all great Towns, where the Work-houses are left to the Management of Overseers annually elected. And therefore, from what I have seen here at *Maidstone*, I conceive it to be a Matter of absolute Necessity, that the Direction of a Work-house should be left to some single Person, to be chosen by the Parishioners, and not to a Number of Overseers; who are more liable to a great Variety of Application in Favour of particular Persons among the Poor, and more likely to act in an arbitrary Way in the Management of the House, than any single elective Person will presume to do. By these Means too, the Appointment and Choice of the Work in which the Poor are to be employ'd, will be carry'd on in a regular and uniform Manner, and not be left to the Humour or Interest of annual Officers, to be changed and altered as they shall please; for different Overseers will have different Interests; and where the Direction is left to them, it will probably

bably happen, as it has in Fact here at *Maidstone*, that the Poor shall be one Year employ'd in the Linnen, and another in the Woollen Manufactory; and this merely as it suits the Interest of the Managers.

A *Work-House* is a Name that carries along with it an Idea of Correction and Punishment; and many of our Poor have taken such an Aversion to living in it upon that Account, as all the Reason and Argument in the World can never overcome. Therefore it will be a Means of preventing a great deal of Trouble, and avoiding a greater Expence than you can imagine, to have the Work-house call'd by a softer and more inoffensive Name. This, SIR, I mention to you, as a Matter of more Consequence than can well be imagin'd by any body at a Distance; for we have many here who would choose to starve, rather than be maintain'd in Plenty and Cleanliness in the *Bridewell*, or House of Correction, as they call it.

As there are many in our Workhouse who are past their Labour, their Business is to teach the Children to read, to clean the House, attend in the Kitchen, and do such other Offices as their Age and Strength admit of. The ancient People go to Church every Day, the Children and working People only on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays*; but they have always constant Prayers in the House, and continual Reading the Scriptures. None are suffer'd to walk into the Town without Leave, and the Children are seldom seen, even at the Door, but have a Spot of Ground for their Diversion behind the House.

FROM this Account of our Work-house you will observe, That many Things may serve as Matter of Caution, which cannot be propos'd as Patterns for Imitation; for tho' it be under no very commendable Regulation, yet it is still of very good Service to the Town. For this one may lay down as a certain Truth, that a Work-house, even under the worst Direction, is far more advantageous to a Parish, than the most exact and careful Management of the Poor, where there is none.

An Account of the Work-house at Stroud in Kent.

THE Minister of this Parish having with great Application visited several Places in *Kent* and *Essex*, to be inform'd of the best Methods for employing the Poor, did, in the Year 1720, make *Proposals* to the *Vestry* of the Parish, shewing the Practicableness, as well as great Usefulness, of taking proper Measures for employing the Poor, which were then grown very numerous and chargeable to the Parish.

THESE *Proposals* had that good Effect, that they soon agreed to build a convenient House for lodging and maintaining all the Poor depending on the Parish; the Success of which is best related by the Minister himself in the following Letter.

*A Letter from the Reverend Mr. Parfett,
Minister at Stroud, to the Secretary of the
Society at London for Promoting Christian
Knowledge.*

SIR,

Nov. 9. 1723.

SOON after the *Proposals* abovementioned were made, the *Vestry* came to a Resolution to build an House, and appointed seven Persons Trustees to manage that Affair. And they presently contracted with a Builder, and erected a large convenient Brick-House in the Year 1721, which cost 360*l*. The Person who built it, worthily consented to be paid by our yearly Charity of 60*l*. from the City of *Rockester*: And the employing that Gift this Way was, in the Opinion of a very eminent Lawyer, agreeable to the Will of the Donor; whose principal Design was to promote Industry

dusdry and good Living among the Poor, and to make their Lives more comfortable to themselves and others, than they commonly are. And how far this House has, and is like to answer what is offered in the Proposals, I now beg Leave to acquaint the SOCIETY.

THE first Article relates to Parish-Orphans: And they are happily provided for in these Houses. We have now 14 or 15 in ours; who are employ'd in Spinning Jersey by a Person of the Parish, who twists and dies it, and then sells it for Stockings; and some can earn 2 *d.* per Day in Winter, and 3 *d.* in the Summer. The Officers receive their Money, and provide every Thing they want. These Children us'd to be kept in poor Families at 2 *s.* per Week, and bred up in the grossest Idleness and Vice! But now they are inur'd to Labour, and help to maintain themselves, earning at least their Diet. And by this Method, a great deal is sav'd to the Parish, and the Children themselves virtuously and christianly brought up, and made fit for good Services.

I should acquaint you likewise, that we intend not that Spinning shall be their whole Business; but they are to be taught to knit their own Stockings, to make their Caps, Aprons, and Shifts; to clean the House, make Beds, to assist (as they are able) in washing and getting up the Cloaths, dressing of Victuals, and such other Offices, as will make them good Servants. We put out one Girl this last Week upon good Terms, into a sober Family, and shall do the same by the rest, as they become qualify'd. And this Proposal, as it takes Place in Market Towns, and populous Parishes, will, I hope, save many a poor Orphan from being ruin'd. We now find Parish-Officers too eager to get rid of them; and they place them out so young with little Money (two Guineas a common Price) to sorry Masters, that 'tis little better than murdering them. But when Children are put into a Way of contributing to their own Maintenance, and may be kept in these Houses at little or no Charge to the Parish,

Parish, till they are old enough for Trades or Services; it can hardly be suppos'd, that Officers will *then* be so monstrously cruel, as to go on in the old Road of sacrificing them. Besides, I hope *those Gentlemen* will also seriously consider farther, that God himself *defendeth the Fatherless*, and will surely be the *Avenger of all such* as are so void of *Bowels of Mercy* towards them. The Command is plain and express; *Ye shall not afflict any Widow, or fatherless Child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their Cry; And my Wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the Sword; and your Wives shall be Widows, and your Children fatherless*, Exod. xxii. 22, 23, 24. This barbarous Practice might indeed be in a good Measure suppress'd, if his Majesty's Justices of the Peace would sign no Indentures, without enquiring into the Age of the Children, and the Character and Circumstances of their intended Masters; or at least not without an Order of Vestry, sign'd by the Minister of the Parish where such Children live; who ('tis to be suppos'd) will be very cautious and vigilant in so important a Matter.

BUT if our Legislators should, in their great Wisdom, think fit to revise and make any Additions to the late Act, relating to Work-houses, it is to be hop'd, that this great Hardship poor Parish-Orphans now lie expos'd to, will be entirely remov'd; and that then a Clause will be likewise added, empowering some of the ablest and discreetest Inhabitants to act always jointly with the Parish-Officers in the Direction of the said Houses. And by this Method they cannot well fail to answer all the excellent Ends we have so much Reason to expect from them.

THE second Article is, to provide for the Aged, Sick, and Impotent Poor in these Houses. And this End they happily serve in all Respects. We have now several very ancient Men, that live as comfortably in our House, as any Persons in the Parish. They are wholly remov'd from the Cares and Troubles of *this Life*, and have little or nothing to do, but to pre-

prepare themselves for the *next*. When they are sick, we have a convenient Apartment for them, and some of the Women of the House look after them: They have likewise an Apothecary to attend them, and want nothing that their Cases may require. We have one Man in the House about 56, who has been little better than a common Beggar for many Years: Some Time ago he was brought from another Parish very ill, and ready to be devour'd with Vermine; and all possible Care was presently taken of him; our Apothecary attended him, and the Officers provided new Cloaths for him. And now, unless he gives over rambling, and continues orderly in the House, doing such Work as the Governours think him capable of, our next Care will be to send him to an House of Correction.

WE have also a very old deaf Woman in the House, who knits well, and is useful that Way, considering her Age. We have likewise several other Women; and some are able to wash, dress Victuals, &c. and even the most infirm can reel, sew, and mend the Childrens Cloaths; and are serviceable in one Respect or other.

THE third Proposal was, that all Elderly Women, who were only chargeable to the Parish for their House-Rent, should be accommodated in this House, but we have not one of this Sort; tho' before our House was built, that single Article amounted to near 30 *l. per Annum*, and occasioned a great deal of Trouble to the Officers of the Parish.

THE fourth Article related to such Widows as had Children, and commonly large Pensions upon that Account. But neither are we at much Charge this Way. We have only one Woman and her three Children, who are allow'd a Room in the House; but the Mother goes out to Work, and the Children spin, and have their own Earnings, maintaining themselves. There were several others, who were Pensioners before; but being healthy, robust Persons, they openly declar'd, that they would drink less strong Beer, &c. and

and work their Fingers to the Bones, before they would come into the House, or be any longer oblig'd to the Parish. And, I think, I may safely aver, that they live better now without, than they did before with their monthly Allowances.

A considerable Sum is likewise yearly sav'd to our Parish by the fifth Proposal. For we send now such poor travelling People, as fall sick in our Streets, to the Work-house, and not to Ale-houses, as usual; where large Reckonings were presently run up, and such extravagant Things done, that many have pretended themselves sick, for the Sake of being sent to such Quarters. But since we have taken this Course, we have not had half the Trouble as before. A Woman indeed, not long since, pretended she was in Travail, expecting Money from the Officers to go forward to the next Parish. But being conducted to the House, put to Bed, and made to take Things proper for her Condition, she found she should be detested, and so soon took an Opportunity to go about her Business; whereas if she had been sent to a Publick-house, I know not how long her Labour might have lasted.

'Twas propos'd in the last Article, that the Charity-Schools should be annexed to the Work-houses. Ours is so; and very many Advantages attend it. We gave before 25 *l. per Annum* to a Master and Mistress, with two Chaldrons of Coals, and paid 6 *l.* a Year House-Rent. But now, by having such a convenient Room for the School in the Work-house, that one Master and Mistress will serve for both, we save great Part of this Money, and apply it to a good Use, which we very much wanted it for, *viz.* to place out our Charity-Children to good Trades and Services. Several Boys have already had the Benefit of it; and there are others, who will shortly be qualify'd to receive it. This Method is farther advantageous both to our Charity-Children and Parish-Orphans. For some of the former spin and earn 2 *d.* and 3 *d. per Day*; and so have not only their Education,

tion, *Cloaths*, and *Money* to place them out; but partly maintain themselves, even while they are at School, by being thus set to Work, and carrying Home their Earnings to their Parents. The latter, *viz.* the poor Parish-Orphans, have likewise the Opportunity of good Instruction with their Labour, and are allow'd sufficient Time every Day for their Learning. 'Tis a great Pleasure to me to visit them often, to see them sometimes industrious at their Wheels, sometimes diligent at their Books; and to find them Mornings and Evenings devoutly praying to God for themselves and Benefactors, and singing Psalms, and praising him for these signal Mercies vouchsafed unto them. Amongst these Children, we have a poor Girl, who, before she was taken into the House, was the most miserable Wretch upon Earth. Her Face is sadly burnt and disfigur'd; and being almost blind, she did nothing but creep about begging in the Streets; and such a lamentable Spectacle, as, I think, was hardly ever seen. But, I thank God, there is a great Alteration in her Circumstances; and she is now as happy, as before she was miserable. This poor Creature has a good Memory, and a soft, pleasant Voice; and 'tis delightful to hear her repeat Bishop *Ken's* Hymns, which her Mistress has taught her. Neither is she altogether useless in the House; she helps about the Beds, and makes a shift to do some other little Things in it.

THIS, SIR, is the present State of our House; and, I hope, it shews the Proposals to be practicable in every Part of them. They are likewise altogether as advantageous to the whole Parish. Our House was open'd about *Midsummer* 1722, and presently check'd the Growth of our Rates, which were in a fair Way to have risen to such an Height, that I verily believe, the Inhabitants could never have been able to have paid them. As soon as we had resolv'd upon this Undertaking, 'twas agreed that our Charity from *Rochester*, should be reserv'd to pay for the Building; and *that* 60*l.* is sav'd entire for that Purpose every

G

Year.

Year. Besides which, our Poor-Rates decrease; notwithstanding several chargeable Accidents about Settlements, &c. have happened; and we have been at a considerable Expence in furnishing the House. And 'tis easie to shew, (and, I believe, most of the Parishioners are convinc'd of it) that in a little Time they will not be oblig'd to raise above 100 *l.* per Year, whereas the Rates (exclusive of the *Rockester* Charity) lately amounted to 230 *l.* and were still rising. Besides, the Money now expended in the House, circulates duly among the Tradesmen of the Parish, who serve it in their Turns, and have their Bills regularly paid. Whereas, what Money the Poor receiv'd before, was for the most Part idly and extravagantly spent, and did little real Service to themselves or their Neighbours. But more of this will be seen from the Rules of the House, and the Method of keeping our Books; which I will likewise send you, as soon as I have Time to copy them.

SUCH are the Advantages which we do, and shall reap from our Work-house; and that without farming it out, without pinching the Poor, or getting rid of our poor Orphans after a cruel and unchristian Manner. But give me Leave, SIR, to add, that there are still more behind; *Great and Noble ones. For Blessed is the Man, that provideth for the sick and needy: The Lord will deliver him in the Time of Trouble. This Work, and Labour of Love, will testify our Gratitude to our great Benefactor and Redeemer, and entitle us to his Favour and Mercy. Inasmuch, He will say at the great Day of Judgment, as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my Brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

I think I have nothing further to trouble the SOCIETY with at present, but only to assure them that I am,

SIR,
*Their most oblig'd, and most
 obedient humble Servant,*

Ca. Parfekt.

Resol.

Resolutions of the Vestry at Stroud, made the 15th of November 1722, to be observ'd by the Governours of the Work-house, in their future Conduct of the same.

I. **T**HAT Twelve Governours be appointed to direct the Affairs of the Work-house for one whole Year; and to report the State of it at a Vestry, to be held once a Quarter.

II. **T**HAT a weekly Account be kept, in a Book provided for that Use, of all Disbursements in the said House; and that the Overseers of the Poor, do bring constantly to the Quarterly Vestry, an *Account of all their Expences out of the House*, to be entred likewise in the said Book, for the Satisfaction of all the Parishioners.

III. **T**HAT a Bill of Fare be given by the Governours to the Master and Mistress of the House.

IV. **T**HAT the Governours visit the House by Turns; two every Day; and that whosoever fails of so doing in Person, or by a Deputy (substituted out of their own Number) shall forfeit *Six-pence* for every such Default, to be dispos'd of by the Majority of the said Governours.

V. **T**HAT certain Orders be drawn up, relating to the Buying of Provisions; and likewise the Behaviour of the People in the House; that it may not fail to answer the End of it, *viz.* to be an House of Piety, Charity, and Industry.

VI. **T**HAT all proper Enquiries be daily made by those, whose Turn 'tis to visit the House, relating to the Observance of those Orders; and all Complaints, Grievances, &c. be minuted, in order to be laid before All, or a Majority of the Governours.

VII. **T**HAT all the Governours meet at the Work-house every *Sunday*, after Evening-Service, to advise together upon the Minutes, taken by them the Week

past, and to agree upon any fresh Rules, as they see Occasion.

VIII. T H A T if any difficult Case happens, it shall not be determin'd by the two visiting Governours, but referr'd to the weekly Meeting; or if it requires immediate Dispatch, a Majority of the Governours shall be call'd together on that Occasion.

IX. T H A T all Resolutions, and Steps, taken in this Affair, be kept in a Book at the Work-house, for the Satisfaction of any Parishioner, or the Information of such, as may be desirous to pursue the same good Design in other Places.

X. T H A T the said Governours be diligent, and unanimous in this Undertaking, avoid all Contradictions and Oppositions to one another, and to the Rules agreed on amongst themselves; endeavouring to act with such an exact Harmony, that (tho' it be necessary to decide all Controversies by the Majority, yet) as far as is possible, every single Act of each Person, may have the Consent and Approbation of the whole Number concern'd.

Orders to be Observ'd in the Work-house.

I. T H A T the Bill of Fare be punctually observ'd by the Master and Mistress, until any Alteration be made therein, by a Majority of the Governours.

II. T H A T if the Butcher, who is to serve the House in his Turn for a Month, or Quarter, does not constantly supply it with such Pieces of Meat, as the Governours think most profitable for the Use of it, the two Persons, who visit on the Market-Day, shall go to other Shops in the Parish, where they may be best furnish'd.

III. T H A T all the Shops in the Parish have their respective Turns to serve the House; in case they sell as good Wares, and as cheap as they do to other People.

IV. THAT they always send Notes of the Weight and Price with their Goods; which are to be fil'd by the Master, as soon as he has made proper Entries of the said Goods in the Books of the House.

V. THAT all Bills be paid once a Quarter by the Overseers.

VI. THAT the Grown People in the House have their respective Offices or Employments; and that those Offices or Employments be appointed by a Majority of the Governours.

VII. THAT the Children spin Jersey, and be moderately task'd; and if they are idle, and do not their Tasks, or make great Waste, that they go sometimes without their Meals, and sometimes have corporal Punishment, at the Discretion of the Master and Mistress.

VIII. THAT they be at Work by Six of the Clock in the Summer, and eight in the Winter, and continue so, till they have done their daily Tasks.

IX. THAT special Care be taken to prevent the Childrens making Waste; and that this Article be particularly enquir'd into by the visiting Governours.

X. THAT fit Persons be appointed to reel the Work; and that they do it well and faithfully, without injuring the House, or the Person who employs them.

XI. THAT each Child have every Day two Hours to learn to read, &c. at the Discretion of the Master and Mistress.

XII. THAT there be Prayers in the House Morning and Evening, and a Chapter in the Bible, distinctly read before Prayers; and that Grace before and after Meat be always said by one of the Children.

XIII. THAT certain Hours be appointed and observ'd for Prayers and Meals; and that none of the House be absent at such Times; and that all go to Bed by Eight in the Winter, and Ten in the Summer.

XIV. THAT all the Children, and as many of the Grown People as can be spar'd out of the House, do constantly go to Church on Sundays, Holy-days, Wed-

Wednesdays and Fridays, and carry their Bibles and Common-Prayer Books with them.

XV. THAT neither Children nor others, go abroad on Sundays, but continue together in the House, and read some Portion of Holy Scripture, or a Chapter out of the *Whole Duty of Man*.

XVI. THAT the Children be never suffer'd to go into the Streets, or to play, unless they behave themselves well in the House, and do their Tasks.

XVII. THAT none (either old or young) presume to go out without the Master's or Mistress's Leave.

XVIII. THAT particular Care be likewise taken of the Education, Manners, and Behaviour of the Children of the Charity-School taught in the Work-house; and that their Names be call'd over at Seven a Clock in the Summer, and Eight in the Winter half Year, every Morning, and at one in the Afternoon: And if any be missing, to be put down with Notes for Tardy, or Absent; and that great Faults, as Lying, Swearing, Stealing, playing at Church, Truanting, &c. be also noted down in weekly Bills, to be laid before the Governours every Sunday-Evening.

XIX. THAT all the Children appear then constantly before the Governours, to shew the Condition of their Cloaths, and to be examin'd in the Progress they make in their Learning; that the Master and Scholars may have their due Commendations, and the Benefactors all the Comfort they propose to themselves, by encouraging this Design.

LASTLY, That the Master and Mistress use all possible Care to promote Peace, and good Order in the House; that they treat the elderly People calmly, and tenderly; and to lay all material Complaints before the Governours, without attempting to remove them themselves.

RESOLVED, That the Articles agreed to at a Vestry, held the 15th of November 1722, with these and all other Orders, that may be made hereafter, for the due Management of the Work-house, be
always

always consulted by the visiting Governours ; whereby they may be easily directed to make all proper Enquiries, and to frame their Minutes accordingly for the general Weekly Meeting.

The Bill of Fare.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Supper</i>
Sunday	Hard Bisket for the Children, Bread & Cheese for the old People	Buttock of Beef and Pudding	Hard Bisket for the Children, Bread & Cheese for the old People
Monday	Beef Broth	Cold Meat and Pudding	Bread & Cheese
Tuesday	Hard Bisket for the Children, Milk Porridge for the old People	Double Rands of Beef and Pudding	Bread & Butter
Wednesday	Beef Broth	Cold Meat and Pudding	Bread & Cheese
Thursday	As on Tuesday	Moose. piece of Beef & Pease Pudding	Bread & Butter
Friday	Pease Porridge	Cold Meat and Pudding	Bread & Cheese
Saturday	As on Tuesday	Thick Milk	Bread & Butter

THE Accounts of *Receipts* and *Disbursements* for the House, are regularly kept for the Inspection of any of the Benefactors, or Parishioners. A Specimen of which is published in an Account of this Work-house, printed by *Joseph Downing* in *Bartholomew-Close*. But, for the Reader's Satisfaction, the Account of Expences for the Year 1723, is here subjoin'd.

Bread,

Bread, Flower, and hard Bisket.

L. s. d.

Paid Mr. — 1 ft Quarter, viz.			
from Lady-Day 1723,	}	5	10 07 $\frac{1}{2}$
to Midsummer ———			
Mr. — 2 d Quarter ———		7	06 05 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr. — 3 d Quarter ———		7	01 00
Mr. — 4th Quarter, viz.	}	9	14 06
to Lady-Day 1724 ———			
			29 12 07

*Butter, Cheese, Soap, Candles,
and other small Wares.*

Paid Mr. — 1 Quarter ———	3	11	08 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr. — 2 Quarter ———	4	05	10
Mr. — 3 Quarter ———	4	14	02
Mr. — 4 Quarter ———	4	10	00
			17 01 08 $\frac{1}{2}$

Beer.

Paid Mr. 1 Quarter ———	4	07	06
2 Quarter ———	4	07	06
3 Quarter ———	4	00	06
4 Quarter ———	4	14	06
			17 10 00

Milk.

Paid Mrs. — 1 and 2 Quarters	0	19	00
3 Quarter ———	1	01	06
4 Quarter ———	0	08	00
			02 08 06
Carry'd over	66	12	09 $\frac{1}{2}$

L. s. d.
Brought over 66 12 09½

Beef.

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Paid Mr. — 1 Quarter ———	7	12	03
Mr. — 2 Quarter ———	9	02	10½
Mr. — 3 Quarter ———	6	12	08
Mr. — 4 Quarter ———	11	04	08
	<hr/>		
		34	12 05½

Linnen and Cloaths.

Paid Mr *A.* and *B.* for the whole Year — 8 08 04

Coals.

Paid Mr. *A.* for 4 Chaldron for the whole }
Year ————— } 4 06 00

Leather.

Paid Mr. — for Leather to make and mend }
Shoes for a Year ————— } 5 10 10½

Master's yearly Salary ————— 10 00 00

Mending Wheels and Reels, strong Beer }
for Washerwomen, paid the whole Year } 3 10 00

133 00 05½

By the foregoing Account, the Reader may observe in how easy a Method the Accounts of this House are kept. Five Articles suffice, for the most part,
H for

for the weekly Expences, which may be all express'd in so many Lines; and at the End of each Quarter the Totals are computed as in the preceding Account. The Annual Articles are accounted for in the Quarters in which they happen.

IN the Year, for which the foregoing Account was kept, 30 Persons were, one Week with another, maintained in the House; so that the weekly Charge *per Head* amounts to about 1 s. 8 d $\frac{1}{2}$. And the Earnings by Labour, which are about 8 s. *per Week* to the House, are clearly sav'd to the Parish.

THE chief Business which employs the Poor here is *Spinning*, for which one Person in the Neighbourhood furnishes them with Wool ready prepar'd for the Wheel, from Time to Time as they want it.

THIS Person pays a Penny for every Skain that is spun; the Skain consisting of so many Threads as is usual.

AND the House pays a Penny for every Ounce of Wool that is lost or wasted of the Quantity deliver'd in. By which Means all Trouble of buying or selling Materials for employing the Poor is avoided.



*An Extract of several Letters, giving
an Account of Work-houses set up
in the County of Essex, viz.*

Barking, alias Bury-king.

SIR,

March 13. 17²⁴/₂₅

IN the Year 1721, the Parish took a House upon a Lease for 30 Years, at 10 *l.* per *Annum*, and having fitted it up with necessary Accommodations for receiving the poor Pensioners of the Parish, they open'd it at *Christmas* the same Year. It will conveniently lodge about 48 People, two in a Bed; and there is a small Infirmary built on the Backside of the House, but the People are generally in so good Health, that there has been hitherto little Occasion to use it.

THE Number of Poor now in the House is,

4 old Men	}	from 50 to 80 Years of Age.
10 old Women		
3 Boys	}	from 4 to 7 Years old.
3 Girls		

20.

THEIR Employment is picking Oakum, at which they earn altogether about 20 *l.* per *Annum*; the Materials for this Sort of Work being Pieces of old Cable, or Junk (as it is call'd), are bought of two Merchants, one at *Rotherhith*, near *Three Mariners Stairs*, and the other at *Cuckold's Point*, and cost from 7 *s.* to 10 *s.* per hundred Weight; which is sold again in Oakum for 10 *s.* or 12 *s.* per hundred.

Or in spun Yarn at 2 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ per pound.

Or in Rope Yarn at 2 *d.* per *l.* or 16 *s.* 8 *d.* per C. Wt.

For all these are made out of old Cable.

THE

THE Women knit and mend Stockings for the whole Family, make Beds, and keep the House clean, and sometimes pick Oakum.

THE Steward and his Wife have the Government of the Family; he buys all Necessaries for Food at the Market, and she takes Care for dressing it.

THE Vi&tuals is divided into Messes, 4 Persons to a Mess; and this being a cheap Country for Flesh, they have 4 Flesh Days in the Week, according to the following Bill of Fare, *viz.*

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Sheeps Head Broth	Beef, Pudding, and Broth	What's left at Noon
Monday	Beef Broth	Oatmeal Hasty Pudding, with a quarter of a Pound of But- ter to a Mess	Bread Butter or Cheese
Tuesday	Hasty Pud- ding	Three bak'd Ox Cheeks	What's left at Dinner
Wednesday	Ox Cheek Broth	Pease Porridge	Bread, Cheese and Butter
Thursday	Hot Pease Porridge	Beef and Broth	What's left at Dinner
Friday	Beef Broth	Milk Porridge	Bread and Cheese
Saturday	Milk Por- ridge	Sheep's Head for each Mess	What's left at Dinner

BREAD and Beer are allow'd to all without Limitation.

THEY have Roast Beef at the Three great Festivals, and Plumb-Pudding at *Christmas*.

THE Poor's Rate here is reduc'd from 2 s. to 1 s. in the Pound, and the Poor better provided for.

Rum-

Rumford.

SIR,

Octob. 24. 1724.

I Received yours in due Time, and had acknowledged it sooner, but that Business or Accidents have hindred me; this is all the Apology I shall make for this Delay, and therefore shall address myself to give you such an Account as you desire.

You have been rightly inform'd as to the Work-house in this Town. It is true in Fact we have one; and tho' it has not fully answer'd our Expectations, yet it proves of vast Service to the Parish; the Truth on't is, we have not publick-spirited Men enough amongst us to supervise it, and therefore there has not been so good OEconomy in it, as is requisite to render a thing of this Nature the most extensively useful and beneficial to the Publick.

As to the Number of People taken in and provided for in the House, it is very different, sometimes more and sometimes less. We have had above 30, and now under 20. These being impotent People, very aged, or Children, it cannot be expected they should earn a great deal: However, somewhat they do, both Men and Women go Abroad to work, when there is a Demand for them; and at Home the Women spin or wind Silk, and the Men pick Oakum.

I must, SIR, observe to you, that the Advantage of the Work-house to the Parish, does not arise from what the poor People can do towards their Subsistence, but from the Apprehensions the Poor have of it. These prompt them to exert, and do their utmost to keep themselves off the Parish, and render them exceedingly averse to submit to come into the House, till extream Necessity compels them.

PRIDE, tho' it does ill become poor Folks, won't suffer some to wear the Badge; others cannot brook

Con-

Confinement ; and a third Sort deem the Work-house to be a mere State of Slavery, and so Numbers are kept out.

THERE are two Things more that have greatly contributed to render the Work-house beneficial towards reducing the Poor's Rate, *viz.* That whereas before a great many Pensions were granted thro' Partiality or Favour, these are all stopp'd: And whereas it was usual to pay Rents for the Poor, we have resolv'd to pay none; and in this Article we have sav'd to the Parish above 70*l.* *per Annum.*

BEFORE opening of the House, our Rates for the Poor were sometimes 1*s.* 8*d.* and 1*s.* 10*d.* and never under 1*s.* 6*d.* *per Pound*; last Year they were but 1*s.* out of which too we paid a Debt of 50*l.* and this Year we hope to come off for 8*d.*

I send you a Transcript of the Orders ; in the main they are pretty good, and proper to promote the End of their Establishment. I have enquir'd how the Orders are observ'd, and am told, that in most Things prescribed they are very punctual.

THE Expences for the Work-house from *Michaelmas* 1723, to *Michaelmas* 1724, were 147*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$, and the Receipts for the Labour and Work of the Poor in the same Time, were 10*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$.

THERE is also another Work-house in this Neighbourhood, *viz.* at *Hornchurch*, and the Parish has had good Success in the Establishment of it: The Poor's Rates are reduced from five hundred Pounds *per Annum*, to under two hundred; and there is this Singularity there, that they have set the Work-house, and give a Man one hundred Guineas to provide for the Poor for one Year, and hope to agree with him for the next at fourscore.

I am,

S I R, &c.

The

*The Orders in the Work-house at Rumford
are to the following Effect.*

I. **T**HAT the Master and Mistrefs be sober and orderly Persons, and not given to swear, and that they see the Orders strictly performed.

II. **T**HAT they rise by Seven a Clock in the Morning from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-Day*; and by Six from *Lady-Day* to *Michaelmas*.

III. **T**HAT they see the Family a Bed by Eight a Clock, and their Candles out, during the Winter half-Year; but in the Summer half-Year, that they be in Bed by Nine.

IV. **T**HAT they have their Breakfast in the Winter half-Year at Eight in the Morning, and in the Summer half-Year by Seven.

V. **T**HAT they have their Dinner by one a Clock all the Year.

VI. **T**HAT they have their Supper at Six in the Evening during the Winter half-Year, and in the Summer at Seven.

VII. **T**HAT the Beer be drawn by one Person for a whole Day in his Turn.

VIII. **T**HAT the Cloth be laid by Turns for Breakfast, Dinner, and Supper.

IX. **T**HAT they sit at the Table to eat their Meals in a decent Manner.

X. **T**HAT the Master say Grace before and after their Meals.

XI. **T**HAT they have the House swept from Top to Bottom every Morning, and wash'd once a Week.

XII. **T**HAT they are call'd to work in Summer by Seven, and in the Winter at Eight in the Morning.

XIII. **T**HAT they leave Work at Seven a Clock at Night in the Summer, and Six in the Winter.

XIV. **T**HAT no Person go out of the Gate without the Master's Leave.

XV. THAT if any Person steals, or is heard to swear, or curse, for such Crimes the first Time to stand on a Stool at one Corner of the working Room, the whole Day, with the Crime pinn'd to their Breast.

XVI. THAT for the second Offence, he or she stand in the like Posture, and have half a Pound of Bread, and a Quart of Water for that Day.

XVII. THAT for the third Offence, he or she be order'd by a Justice of Peace to be publickly whipt.

XVIII. THAT the Master read, or cause to be read, Prayers every Morning before Breakfast, and every Evening before Supper, and call together as many as can be conveniently there.

XIX. THAT these Prayers shall be out of the *Whole Duty of Man*, or some other good Book, as the Minister shall appoint.

XX. THAT the Master and Mistress shall every Lord's Day attend at the Publick Worship, with as many of the House as are not hindred by a just Reason.

XXI. THAT on the Lord's Day, either before Church, or after Dinner, he do read, or cause to be read, the Psalms and Lessons appointed for the Morning Service; and after Evening Prayer, the Psalms and Lessons for the Evening Service; and also a Section or Chapter out of the *Whole Duty of Man*.

XXII. THAT the Master and Mistress do receive the Holy Sacrament four Times every Year at least.

XXIII. THAT the Master do give an Account every Monthly Meeting, of all such as are negligent and disorderly.

Brentwood, *Essex.*

S I R,

Jan. 9. 17 $\frac{2}{3}$.

IN the Work-house at this Place, there are only at present 4 or 5 ancient People, past their Labour, one incurable, and half a dozen small Children, under the Government of a Mistress: And tho', the poor People being helpless, there is little or no Work done in it, yet the setting of it up has had this good Effect, that the Poor's Rates are lessen'd above one half, by exciting the Industry of the poorer Sort, who are willing to exert their utmost Endeavours to maintain themselves at Home, rather than to be put into the Work-house.

I remain,

S I R, &c.

Malden, *Essex.*

S I R,

Jan. 30. 17 $\frac{2}{3}$.

I Have inform'd my self of the State of our Work-house; and, as you desir'd, send you these Particulars. The Reverend Dr. *Plumb*, a Native of this Place, left by his Will several Lands, with considerable Sums of Money for charitable Uses in *Malden*, one of which was the building and endowing a Work-house. What the particular Sum is, that was design'd for the Work-house, does not yet appear; For the Remainder, after the Discharge of all Debts and Legacies, was to be assign'd for this Use.

I

Now

Now, tho' several of the Trustees were Inhabitants and Magistrates of the Town, and the Town grievously oppress'd with the Weight of the Poor's Rates; yet, for some Reasons, it was not thought proper to demand the Money for the Work-house of the Executor, for several Years after the Doctor's Death: But about 10 Years ago, the Work house was built, which cost about a thousand Pounds: and about two hundred more was laid out for Goods and Utensils.

It's said, there is about 700 *l.* still behind, which is to be laid out in Land for the Support of the Work-house; but the Trustees do not yet think fit to demand it.

BEFORE this Provision was made, our Poor's Rates were from three to five Shillings in the Pound *per Annum*; but now one Shilling in the Pound is the ordinary stint in our Parish, and the other two Parishes about half as much. There are now not twenty poor People in the Work-house; for this is one constant good Effect of it, that many of the Poor will endeavour to live of themselves, rather than be so provided for. I think this is all you desired to know, and therefore, with due Respects,

I remain,

SIR, &c.

Colchester, *Essex.*

SIR,

Nov. 11. 1724.

THE Work-house Corporation at *Colchester*, consists of 48 Guardians, elected by every Townsman, who pays to the Poor after the Rate of five Pounds *per*

per Annum; besides the Aldermen of the Town, who are constant Guardians by virtue of their Place.

FROM among these forty eight, are chose by themselves a Governour, Deputy Governour, Treasurer, and Twelve Assistants. The Business of these last, is to have the immediate Direction and Management of the Poor, whom they relieve according to their own Discretion.

THE Authority vested in the whole Body, is to assess and rate, in equal Proportions, every Person, living within the Town of *Colchester*; which is done by a Pound Rate upon all Land and Tenements, Tythes appropriate and Impropriations of Tythes, according as the Exigencies and Wants of the Poor require.

THE Rates never exceeded 6 s. sometimes 5 s. and at present only 3 s. 4 d. in the Pound *per Annum*.

THE Sum of Money rais'd every Year at the present Assessment, amounts to about 1800 l. for the collecting of which there are two Persons chose, to whom we allow a Salary of 30 l. each. This Money is paid into the Hands of the Treasurer, and is by him distributed weekly to two other Persons called *Payers*, who relieve the Poor according to each Person's stated Collection, or their particular Emergencies, as the Assistants shall, by Bills under their Hands, order; which Bills are always produc'd as Vouchers, to prevent any Fraud.

By the Assistants every three Weeks is kept a Court at the Work-house, where the Poors Complaints are heard, and there reliev'd according as they see Cause.

IN the Work-house there are about 40 or 50 Children, kept at Work by a Master appointed, whose Salary is 20 l. *per Annum*, besides Maintenance; where they are allow'd the best of Meat three Times a Week, and the best Butter and Cheese the other Days, that can be bought for Money. Their Work is Carding and Spinning Wool for the Bay-makers; some of them will earn 6 d. or 7 d. a Day.

IN this Work-house, there is a large Part assign'd for an Infirmary, into which the old and infirm Persons are put; where there is a Nurse to attend them, with Firing allow'd; but the Poor there are at stated Allowances, and provide for themselves, by the same Work, or any other which they choose.

I remain, with due Respects, &c.



Chelmsford, *Essex.*

SIR,

1722.

ACCORDING to your Request, I here give you an Account of our Proceedings from the first erecting a Work-house, and the Advantages the Parish has receiv'd by so doing.

It was built upon Ground where stood old Alms-houses, always wanting Repair, which cost a great deal of Money every Year: The Ground was about 110 Feet in Length, but they took not above 17 Feet in Breadth, there being Room left for a Yard and a Garden behind the Building.

THE Parish chose Twelve Trustees to direct the Work, and they provided Money to go on with it: They borrowed 300*l.* upon Interest, besides what they gathered from the Rates; it was about six Months before it was ready to receive the People: The whole Charge was about 600*l.* and in a Year and a half's Time, by lesser Rates than they had paid before, they discharg'd all the Workmen, and the Money borrow'd upon Interest: We paid 3*s.* 6*d.* in the Pound, but paid only 2*s.* 6*d.* all the Time of the Building; and since it is finish'd, we have reduc'd it to 1*s.* in the Pound for the whole Year, including the

the Church-warden's Rate ; for we have no Church Lands belonging to us.

THE House was built in 1716, and I may aver, that the Parish has sav'd, by having a Work-house, between 1000 or 1100*l.* For the People of the Parish have been sorely afflicted with the Small-Pox, and Fevers, and Agues ; and because they would not come into the House, they have made shift with a Shilling, when four before would not content them ; and they were wont to be always troubling the Overseers for Money, tho' never satisfy'd whatever they gave them ; but now the Overseer's Office is the easiest Office in the Parish : We pay no Rents as we us'd to do, for we paid as many Rents formerly, as would pay the Interest of the Money that built the House.

IF a Person that is industrious falls sick, or his Family, we do not presently hurry him into the Work-house, but give him now and then a Shilling for present Assistance : And if those that do come in, have any Goods, they bring them in with them.

ELEVEN Persons had the Small-Pox in the House, and it cost the Parish not one Shilling for nursing them, nor any Charge for an Apothecary ; thank GOD they all did well with the Kitchen Physick, which sav'd the Parish Abundance of Money, which must have been expended, had they been nurs'd Abroad as they us'd to be.

THUS far you have an Account of the good Effects the Parish has receiv'd by building the Work-house : I shall now inform you how the Poor are managed.

THE ancient People are treated according to their Age, without Compulsion : But the lusty and strong are task'd according to their several Abilities, some to earn 5*d.* some 4*d.* some 3*d.* and the Children some 1*d.* some 2*d.* a Day. They have always a Breakfast to go on with their Day's Work ; and if they be not forward in the Forenoon, they have neither Dinner nor Supper till they have done.

THEY have the best of Beef and good Pudding three Times a Week, *Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays*: They are allow'd Beer, two Bushels of Malt to the Hoghead, and nine Gallons to the Bushel: They have all a clean Shift every Week, and Care is taken that they be wash'd, and their Heads comb'd: They have two Bushels of Meal every Week, and bake it as it comes from the Mill: They have good Cheese, and good Butter, and all other Necessaries for House-keeping. There are Four Overseers, and every one accounts in his Quarter to buy such Things as are wanted; and the Master keeps the general Accounts for the whole Parish; so that every Parishioner may see what his Money is laid out for. I should have inform'd you, that they make Broth from the Meat for the next Morning, and other Mornings Milk Porridge from the best of Milk.

OUR whole Charge for the Year is about 190 *l.* but has been 500 *l.* and more.

SIR, If I have omitted any Thing that your Friend will think material, I shall be ready to answer it upon the first Information to,

SIR,

Your humble Servant, &c.

P.S. At the Season for picking Hops, the whole Family have been employ'd that Way, and earn'd not a little by their Labour.



Hert-

Hertford.

S I R,

February 16. 17 $\frac{2}{2}\frac{4}{5}$.

THE Work-house in St. *Andrew's* Parish *Hertford*, was open'd June 20. 1724. it cost about 400*l.* The Money was borrowed at 5*l.* 5*s.* *per Cent.* to sink the Principal in 99 Years; or the Parish may redeem or pay off the Mortgage when they please. Before this House was erected, we paid about 14*l.* *per Annum* Rents for the Poor; and the whole Expence for maintaining them amounted to 200*l.* *per Annum*: But such great Numbers, rather than come into the House, quitted their Pensions; that now 100*l.* will carry the Parish thro' a Year. The Poor are now more industrious; there are about ten in the House, who are imploy'd in spinning Wool, and in making and mending for one another; and they earn about 8*s.* a Week. The Master is allow'd 5*s.* a Week and his Lodging, with Provisions for himself and Family in the Work-house.

Ware, *Hertfordsh.*

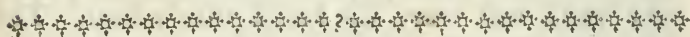
S I R,

Feb. 17 $\frac{2}{2}\frac{4}{5}$.

IT is not above half a Year since the Work-house at this Place was erected, so that a strict Account of what will be sav'd, is not yet known. Two thirds of the Pensioners have left taking their Pensions, and we expect our Rates will sink one half at least. The Poor, about 30 in Number, cost the Parish about 18*d.* each

each *per* Week to maintain them : They do very little Work, for scarce any will come there that can do any, besides Children, and they are half the Day at their Books. There are 3 or 4 old Men, that are let out to work, and the House hath what they earn ; but some small Matter is given them for their Encouragement.

THE great Difficulty of beginning this House, was the Want of Money to build it, the Parish being already overburthen'd with Taxes ; to remove which Difficulty, a Gentleman in the Neighbourhood, of his own Accord, readily lent the Parish 500 *l.* free of Interest, to begin this Method of relieving the Poor, upon Condition of being re-imburfed out of the Savings of the Rates as they rise.



Hatfield, *Hertfordsh.*

SIR,

Feb. 17 ^{$\frac{2}{2}$} ₃.

IT is about three Years since the Work-house at this Place was erected at the Parish Charge ; it cost between three and four hundred Pounds : Above 30 Persons at present are employed in it, who stand the Parish in 1 *s.* *per* Head *per* Week, to maintain them only in Meat and Drink, beside Cloaths ; the Children are taught to read : The Rates are reduc'd at least half ; the Poor are employ'd in Spinning, Knitting, &c. according to what they can do.

St.

St. Alban's, Hertfordsh.

SIR,

Sept. 18. 1724.

IN Answer to your Enquiries about our Work-house, we have

20 Men and Women from 50 to 80 Years old, lodg'd and dieted here in a House provided by the Town, and they are imploy'd in winding Cotton-Wick for the Tallow-Chandlers, at which they earn, one with another, about 2 *d.* a Day.

10 Boys } from 4 to 14 Years of Age, one with
4 Girls } another, earn likewise about 2 *d.* a Day, the Boys at making Horse-whips for Jockeys, &c. the Materials for which are found by a Sadler in the Neighbourhood; and the Girls at Spinning both Linnen and Woollen.

FLAX is bought for 6 *d.* per Pound prepar'd for Spinning; and 8 Pound, when spun up, will serve to make a Pair of Sheets.

THE Wool is furnish'd by a Clothier, ready prepar'd for Spinning into Jersey, who gives from 7 *d.* to 14 *d.* a Pound for Spinning it, according to the Fineness of it.

THE Wheels are provided at the Publick Charge, but then with Care they last many Years, so that there has been no Occasion to buy any since opening the House 1720, when two dozen were provided at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* each.

THE House is an old Building, partly Brick, and partly Plaister, well repair'd for the Purpose, and will accommodate 100 People: There is an Acre and an half of Ground belonging to it, and the whole cost the Town about 250 *l.* out of which they let as much to a Gardener as yields 10 *l.* per *Annum*.

As for Furniture, the poor People generally bring in their Bedding, and some other small Necessaries, of which an Inventory is taken when they are

K

brought

brought to the House, so that there has been no Occasion to buy more than three Beds, and a few other Things.

70 Yards of Cloth, at 2 s. per Yard, has, with the Assistance of a Taylor, serv'd to make and mend what was necessary of wearing Apparel, for 4 Years past, join'd with the old Cloaths brought to the House by the Poor.

As to Linnen, we spin all we have Occasion for, and buy the Flax at the Rate abovementioned.

BUT that you may be more perfectly acquainted with the Expence of our Management, it is necessary that I give you some Account of our Kitchen Provisions, either weekly, monthly, or yearly, by which you may estimate the whole.

BEEF, 72 Pound Weight, at 2 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Pound, or 20 d. per Stone, serves the House one Week. If we don't lay in so much Beef, for Variety, we make up the Weight mention'd with Mutton, Pork, or Veal, at the same Price, when they are in Season.

FLOWER, 2 Bushels at 4 s. per Bushel, serves a Week for Bread and Puddings.

MILK, 7 Gallons at 4 d. per Gallon, serves a Week.

BUTTER, half a Firkin, containing about 40 l. at 4 d. per Pound, serves us two Months.

CHEESE, three hundred Weight of *Cheshire* and *Gloucestershire*, at 3 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ per Pound, serves us two Months.

As to Beer, we buy so good at 5 s. per Barrel, 36 Gallons to the Barrel, that we think we should not save much by brewing it, all Things consider'd; and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Barrel serves one Week.

I come now to give you an Account of some incidental Charges.

ROOTS and Fruit, at the Seasons for them, 5 s. Value serves one Month.

SUGAR, 28 Pound, at the Rate of 30 s. per hundred, serves one Month.

SALT, Pepper, &c. 3 s. Value, serves a Month.

SOAP, one Firkin, containing 30 l. at 5 d. per Pound, serves a Month.

CAN-

CANDLES, 7 dozen, at 6 s. per dozen, serve a Year.

COALS, 7 Chaldron, at 40 s. per Chaldron, serve a Year. But to help out these for baking, &c. we add,

	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
3 Load of Billets at 16 s. per Load	2	08	00	}	6	00 0
600 Faggots, at 12 s. per hundred,	3	12	00			
each Year ——— ——— ———						

WITH the Materials beforementioned, our weekly Bill of Fare is furnish'd in this Method.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Supper</i>
Sunday	Bread & Cheese or Butter	Beef, Mutton, Veal, or Pork, with Roots	Bread & Butter or Cheese
Monday	Beef Broth	Cold Meat left from Sunday	The same
Tuesday	Milk Porridge	Boil'd Rice- Pudding, &c.	Bread and Mo- lasses
Wednesday	Milk Porridge	Bak'd Rice- Pudding-Suet	Bread & Butter or Cheese
Thursday	Bread & Cheese	Beef, Mutton, or Pork, with Roots	The same
Friday	Beef Broth	Cold Meat left Thursday	The same
Saturday	Milk Porridge	Boil'd Rice Pudding, or Rice Milk	The same

IF any are sick, they are well nurs'd, and taken Care of by the Women of the House, in an Apartment for that Purpose; and to super-intend all, we have a discreet Man and his Wife, who, for 15 l. per Annum, and an Apartment in the House, with the Kitchen Fare, take Care of every Thing: The Man keeps the Accounts of the House, both of what comes in, and what goes out, or is expended, in a Method prescribed by the Overseers.

By the Narrative I have given, you will apprehend the Reason why I could not give you an Account, stated by way of Debtor and Creditor, as you de-

fired, our Expences being so various, some Articles being weekly, others monthly, and some yearly: But the good Effects of our Management is apparent from the Reduction of our Rates for the Poor, as follows.

		<i>Disbursements.</i>	
In the Year 1720	we were rated 6 s. in the	}	566 19 03 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Pound, and disburs'd —		
1721	— — — 4 s. in the	}	516 19 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Pound, and disburs'd —		
1722	— — — 3 s. in the	}	387 00 00
	Pound, and disburs'd —		
1723	— — — 3 s. in the	}	275 14 02
	Pound, and disburs'd —		
1724	— — — 2 s. 6 d. in	}	200 00 00
	the Pound, and the Dis-		
	bursments will be about —		

So that, by this Management, we have in about four Years Time, reduc'd our Poor's Rates above half, and hope to save more hereafter, now our House, and other extraordinary Charges are paid for; Articles not to be avoided at the Beginning of such an Undertaking.

GIVE me Leave to warn you and your Friends, not to promise your selves too much from the Produce of the Labour of the People, when they engage in such a Management for the Publick Good: It must be consider'd, the Men and Women are generally old and helpless, and the Children perfectly raw and unexperienced in every Thing; so that if you keep them employ'd, tho' the Produce be no more than what will pay for the Articles of Firing and Candle, it is something not to be despis'd: And what is still of greater Consequence is, that by keeping them employ'd, you keep them in Health, and from Idleness, the Parent of most Disorders in Society, as House-breaking, robbing on the High-way, thieving of all kinds, Beggary, Lying, Sedition, and even a total Depravity of Manners: When the Poor are
hab-

habituated to work, they are ready to do every Thing in their Power, at one Sort of Labour or other.

How pleasing must it be to a good Man, to help such People as do their utmost not to be burthensome to the Publick, especially when so small a Matter as 20 *d.* or 2 *s.* a Week, with frugal Management, will rescue an Object of Charity from a starving Condition, and find him a clean warm Lodging, with three Meals a Day, and wholesome Food: To which it must be added, that, besides the Charity of it, the good Man delivers himself and his Neighbours from the Clamours of common Beggars; an Advantage we were never happy in before, till we fell into this Way of employing the Poor.

BEFORE this Management, it cost us at least 30 *l.* *per Annum* for House-Rent, and 15 or 20 *l.* *per Annum* to an Apothecary for Medicines, both which Articles are now entirely sav'd.

NOR are we of little Service to *London*, as we are a great Thorough-fare, the Strollers that were wont to pass this Way, can no longer live in our Air, unless they will submit to work.

I must also acquaint you, that the principal Advantage to the Publick, by encouraging these Foundations, arises from the Spirit of Industry that is provok'd by it among the Poor. Many of our People, who before chiefly depended on what they could get weekly or monthly, by teasing the Overseers of the Poor, now buckle to Labour; and since they find they must give their Labour to the Publick, if they will depend on the Publick, they have exerted themselves, got Wheels and Materials for Spinning, and work early and late to avoid coming into the Work-house; not that we use any Severity there to fright them from it, but they choose to be accountable to themselves for the Produce of their own Labour; and some really seem to live better now, depending on their Industry only, with GOD's Blessing, than when they receiv'd Relief from their respective Parishes. These Families look like so many subordinate

dinate Façtories to the publick Work-house, tho' they have no Relation to it, except as they conspire by Industry and Emulation to banish Idleness and Beggary from this and the neighbouring Parishes.

IF there be any thing else necessary to put this Matter in a clearer Light for your Satisfaction, it shall be readily communicated by,

S I R,

Your most humble Servant.

St. Stephen's Parish, near St. Alban's, Hertfordsh.

S I R,

March 31. 1725.

THE Success of the Work-house at *St. Alban's*, has induced the Parish of *St. Stephen's*, within half a Mile of the Abbey Church, to agree upon the same Method as is us'd at *St. Alban's*, to employ their Poor; in order to which, the Vestry have already agreed to build a Brick-House, at the Charge of £20*l.* adjoining to the Alms-house, which will receive all the Poor of the Parish; and 'tis hop'd will accommodate them much better than now they live, as well as save Money to the Parish.

WE have paid four nine-penny Rates yearly, towards supporting the Poor there, and purpose to continue it, till the House, &c. are paid for, but then we hope to keep all our Poor for half what they us'd to cost.

I am, S I R,

Your humble Servant.

Hitchin,

Hitchin, *Hertfordsh.*

S I R,

October 31. 1724.

TH E present Condition of our Work-house is this.

THERE is a Charity - House convenient for this Purpose, into which the Officers of the Parish put such Poor as are willing to go, upon Condition that they carry their Beds, &c. in with them, and do what Work they are capable of doing, the Produce of which goes towards their Maintenance, which is very good as to all Necessaries; some of the chief of the Town being by Turns their Proveditors. Those that will not comply, are deny'd the usual weekly Allowance of the Poors Rate, and that Money apply'd to the Use of the Work-house.

I take it to be a very good Undertaking, to which the Poor will be reconcil'd in Time; and already we find our Poors Rate much lessen'd, and few common Beggars at our Doors; but really at present, those that have been in, get out as soon as they can, and few others care to enter; tho', as I said, very well provided for in all Respects: But there is something, as they think, wanting, a little Money to buy Tobacco, Gin, &c.

I am, S I R,

Yours, &c.

Hemel

Hemel-Hempstead, Hertfordsh.

SIR,

May 1724.

THE Parishioners here being inform'd, that Mr. *Matthew Marryott* had been successfully engaged in setting up Work-houses in several Places, sent for him, and the Vestry made the following Contract with him the 24th of May 1720:

WE whose Names are here under subscrib'd, Parishioners and Inhabitants of the Parish of *Hemel-Hempstead*, in the County of *Hertford*, do agree with *Matthew Marryott*, to undertake the Care of the Poor, or to put in some other proper Person, such as he shall think fit to name and send, with the Approbation of the Parishioners, to take Care to feed, lodge, and cloath all the Poor of the said Parish, that shall be sent to the House of Maintenance by the Order of the Parishioners, at the Charge of the Parish; and we do, in Consideration of the great Pains and Trouble the said *Matthew Marryott* shall be at in the Management of it, consent and fully agree with the said *Matthew Marryott*, to pay him the yearly Sum of forty Pounds, and one Coat of thirty Shillings, to commence from *Midsummer* next, and to continue for the Term of three Years. To this Agreement we have set our Hands; and whatsoever reasonable Directions the said *Matthew Marryott* shall give for the preparing or altering the said House, we promise to see them perform'd, and they shall be allow'd of; and we do agree to abide by the same as above. Witness our Hands the Day and Year above-written.

SIGN'd by the Church-wardens, Overseers, and principal Inhabitants, at a Meeting of the Vestry; and counter-sign'd by Mr. *Marryott*.

A Certificate of the good Effects of Mr. Marryott's Management there.

*Hemel-Hempstead in the County
of Hertford, June 1723.*

WE, whose Names are here underwritten, do certifie, that upon looking over our Poor's Book, we find, that for eight Years before we employ'd Mr. *Matthew Marryott*, the Poor's Rate amounted in the whole to 5922 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.* which is 740 *l.* 7 *s.* 1 *d.* one Year with another; when we erected a House of Maintenance, our Poors Account amounted from *Midsummer* to *Easter* following to 276 *l.* 6 *s.* 0 *d.* which is three Quarters of a Year's Expence, Mr. *Marryott's* Salary included; and from *Easter* 1721, to *Easter* 1722, we expended 388 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ Mr. *Marryott's* Salary included.

FROM *Easter* 1722, to *Michaelmas* following, being half a Year, we expended 111 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* Mr. *Marryott's* half Year's Salary included. And that the Poor are well kept, cloath'd, and maintained.

SIGN'D by the Minister, Church-wardens,
Overseers, &c.

It is agreed by Order of Vestry, that the before-mentioned Contract with Mr. *Marryott* shall stand in full Force, and remain for a Twelvemonth longer, till *Midsummer* 1724.

L

Olney

Olney in Bucks.

SIR,

Dec. 31. 1724.

THE first Design of this Work-house was, that the Expences of the Parish in the maintaining their Poor might be contracted, and that the Poor receiving Collection might be more effectually provided for.

As to reducing the Expences of the Parish, the Poor's Rates, before the Erecting of this Work-house, were three Shillings and nine-pence in the Pound, and are now reduc'd to one and nine-pence.

To bring this about, the Town in the first Place purchased a Piece of Ground adjoining to an House belonging before to the Poor, which Purchase was about forty Pounds; the whole is now reckon'd worth 150 *l.* including the Worth of the Poor's House before.

To see that due Orders are kept in the Work-house, a Master is provided to super-intend it, whose Business is to keep the Poor to their Work, to see to the buying in and dressing the Provision, to give an Account of the Work done, and what is expended: This Master is maintain'd out of the Provision of the House, and a Salary allow'd him of 16 *l. per Annum.*

THE Work which is done ordinarily in the House (the Inhabitants being most of them old) comes now to about 15 *s.* a Week, which is given to the Parish Officers, as a Part of what is to contribute to the maintaining them.

THE Persons admitted into the Work-house, are admitted by the Consent of the Parish first obtain'd; and, being found too poor to subsist independently of some Help, are there maintain'd, after having first deliver'd up all their Goods into the Parish-Officers Hands.

THE

THE Parish provides them with all necessary Cloathing besides Diet, and keeps them when sick in a more comfortable Manner.

THE Number of Poor in the Work-house, is sometimes greater and sometimes less, but is generally about thirty, and the Meat, Drink, Washing, Firing, &c. is reckon'd at about thirty Shillings a Week.

THE Persons belonging to the Work-house, are suppos'd to be such as are like to be a continual Parish Charge; for as to those who are only contingently so, by Sickness happening to them, they have Helps allow'd them during the Continuance of those unfortunate Circumstances, by which they were reduc'd.

THE Poor of the House have hot Meat twice a Week, they are allow'd Cheese, their Bread is two parts Wheat to one of Barley; and for their small Beer, two Bushels are allow'd to the Hoghead.

IF any claims a Right to a constant Share in the Poores Collection, and refuses to accept it upon the Terms of being admitted into the Work-house, he is refus'd the Collection he asks.

IT is owing to the erecting of this Work-house; that several Hands, which would be either otherwise idle, or ill employ'd in the breaking Hedges, and such like Acts of Dishonesty, are commendably engaged in Labours innocent, useful, and advantageous.

WHAT'S receiv'd for the Work every Week, is weekly set down; as is also what is weekly expended; at the Foot of which Account the Difference is computed, and how much the Town is every Week out of Purse.

*An Extract of the Orders in the Work-house
of Olney.*

THAT no Person shall be put into the House to be there kept, without a License under the Hands of five of the chiefest Free-holders and Inhabitants

bitants of the said Parish, and the Hands of the Overseers of the Poor, and of as many more of the rest of the Free-holders and Inhabitants Hands as will sign the same.

THAT if any Person shall come into the said House themselves, or bring in any Child or Children to be there kept, without such License as abovenamed, they shall be sent to *Bridewell*, and further punished.

THAT if any Person refuse to work orderly, and so many Hours as the Master of the House shall command them, they shall be sent to the House of Correction.

THAT if any Person will not work, pretending Sickness, which may be discover'd by their Stomachs or otherwise, they shall be severely punish'd.

THAT if any Person shall go a begging or charing, that is kept in the said House, they shall be sent to *Bridewell*.

THAT if any Person shall sell any Thing or Goods that are seized by the Overseers of the Poor, they shall be punish'd as the Law directs.

THAT the poor People in the Work-house, if of healthful Bodies, and able, shall in Summer rise at five, or before that Time, and go to Bed at nine.

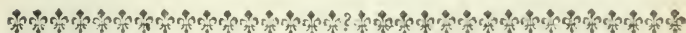
THAT if any one in the Work-house shall convey, take, or steal either Wood, Coals, Cloaths, Lace, or any thing belonging to the Work-house, or to any body else there, they shall be punish'd as the Law directs, with the utmost Severity.

THAT if any Person shall presume to cut off the Seal affix'd to the End of their Lace, they shall be severely punish'd.

THAT on *Saturday* in every Week, at Four a Clock in the Afternoon, the Overseers of the Poor shall meet, and the Free-holders and Inhabitants, who are willing, may meet, to adjust the Week's Accounts for the Poor, enquire how the Poor in the House are used, and whether any Abuses have been there committed, and what else is needful to be done for the Week ensuing.

THAT

THAT the Master of the Work-house shall every Week, at the End of his Accounts, set down in Writing all the Disorders committed in the House that Week, that the Offenders may be examin'd by the Free-holders and Inhabitants, and punish'd as they deserve.



Newport-Pagnel, Bucks.

SIR,

Dec. 31. 1724.

WHEN any poor Person can be provided for at an easier Rate by the Parish, than by sending them to the Work-house, the Person is not sent.

ALL who are maintain'd in this Work-house, are also lodg'd and kept to Work, the Benefit whereof is taken by the Overseers of the Poor, and what the Work of the People in the Work-house wants of maintaining them, the Overseers supply.

BY this Means the Poors Levies, which us'd to be seven six-pences in the Year, are reduc'd to three.

THERE is a Master appointed over the House, his Salary is 17*l. per Annum*; his Office is to keep the Poor to their Work, to buy in all Provision for the Maintenance of the Poor, see to the dressing and Distribution of it, and to give an Account to the Overseers of the Poor of what is earn'd or expended.

THE Poor are allowed Meat three Days in the Week, upon others Milk, or Milk-Porridge; they have small Beer, and coarse wheaten Bread, with Butter or Cheese, or Broth, for Breakfasts and Suppers.

IF any are sick, they are still kept and maintained in the Work-house, and such Things allow'd them as they can eat.

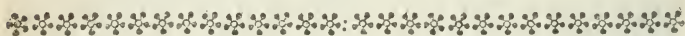
WHEN

WHEN any Persons refuse to go to the Work-house, they are allow'd little or no Collection, but must provide for their own Subsistence.

THE Poor who belong to the House wholly, are cloath'd as well as fed and lodg'd.

IT is judg'd, that the Board of every poor Person in the House is twelve-pence a Week a-piece Charge to the Parish.

As to Firing, Cloaths, Rent of the Work-house, the Master of the Work-house is not concern'd about these, but the Overseers of the Poor are to take Care to provide them, tho' they usually employ the Master of the Work-house in these Affairs.



Hanflope, Bucks.

SIR,

Dec. 31. 1724.

THE Overseers of the Poor having hired a convenient House, and furnished it with Beds, and other necessary Utensils, send thither all Sorts of People, young and old, that from time to time become chargeable to the Parish, (and especially if they become noisy, and are not content with some small Allowance, as one Shilling a Week at furthest) by this Method sometimes single Persons, aged or infirm, sometimes whole Families, Widows, and their Children, are sent in, to be there provided with Meat, Drink, Lodging, and Physick too, if need be.

SUCH of the Poor as are able, are set to Lace-making, and the Children that know not how to make Lace, are taught it there, by a proper Person hired by the Parish for that purpose.

THE Person mention'd as teaching them to work, is the Master of the Work-house, who being some
poor

poor Man, lives with them in the House, and together with his Wife, manages the whole Family, takes in and dresses their Meat, brews their Beer, &c. and sees that they be kept clean; his Salary for so doing is five Shillings a Week, or thirteen Pounds a Year, and his Share of such Provision and Lodging as the House affords.

THEY have Flesh-Meat twice a Week, on *Sundays* and *Thursdays*; when the Meat is bought, there is so much taken in, as will allow one pound weight a Head for both of these Meals; that is to say, so many pounds of Meat are taken in weekly, as there are Persons in the House. On other Days, their Diet is only a piece of wheaten Household Bread and small Beer, and sometimes a Pudding. For Breakfasts and Suppers they have always somewhat hot, as Broth after the Flesh Days, at other Times Milk-Porridge, or the like.

THE Poor are cloathed in Linsley-Woolsey, at the Parish Charge, from time to time severally, as they have need, and have Shoes, Stockings, &c. provided.

AFTER this Method, each Person, taking one with another, allowing for all Repairs of Household Stuff, and Governours Wages also, cloathing, and keeping sick and well, is suppos'd not to stand the Parish in above 18*d.* a Week; and by this Means the Poors Levies, which formerly were six or eight yearly, are now reduc'd to under four, that is to say, one Moiety at least.

IF any are sick, there is a Difference of eating made, and an Apothecary sent in to take Care of them.

THE Master's Salary is usually paid out of the Manufacture (altho' there are not above 10 Pair of working Hands, and those most Children that are learning) which Manufacture the Master takes, sells, and accounts for to the Parish.

Bedfordshire.

SIR,

Bedford, Octob. 24. 1724.

OF the five Parishes in this Town, three of them have Work-Houses, viz. *St. Paul's*, *St. Mary's*, and *St. Cuthbert's*; but as *St. Paul's* Parish is almost as large as all the other four, so the other Work-houses in the Town are inconsiderable, compared to that in *St. Paul's* Parish; and therefore I will only lay before you a particular Account of the Management of that House, which will enable you to guess at the Conduct observ'd in the rest.

SUCH is the Multitude of the Poor in this Parish, that without some prudent Rules, and steady Adherence to them, the Parishioners must be falling foul upon one another, upon all Encounters, and in daily Confusions. From these Considerations did proceed the Orders I have sent you from this Parish, and having referr'd you to them, must in the next Place satisfy your other Enquiries.

THE Number of Poor in our Work-house, is higher or lower, as Peoples Conditions do change, At present there are in it,

8 old Persons, and
13 Children.

21.

THEIR Bill of Fare is as follows.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Bread and Cheese	Boil'd Beef and Suet-Pudding	Bread and Cheese
Monday	Broth	Cold Meat left Sunday	The same
Tuesday	Bread, and Cheese	Boil'd Beef, & a little Mut- ton and Suet- Pudding	The same
Wednesday	The same as Monday		
Thursday	The same as Tuesday		
Friday	The same as Monday.		
Saturday	Bread and Cheese	Hasty Pudding or Milk Por- ridge	Broth, or Bread and Cheese

THEIR Bread is Wheat dress'd down and made into large Household Loaves, by a Woman in the House. Their Drink is Beer tunn'd in from the publick Brew-house, at three half-pence *per* Gallon. The Overseers do sometimes put a Cow upon the Common for them; and that nothing may be wasted or lost, they have a Pig or two bought in, to live upon their Wash, and Dregs, and Fragments; which when well grown, is fed and killed for the House. They have also a little Garden for Herbs, Onions, &c. In their Yard they contrive to hang Lines, and lay clean Brush Faggots where they dry their Cloaths; and such old Women as can do nothing else, spin Hemp for Sheets, and other Uses. The Women that are able, are generally set to washing Cloaths, cleaning Rooms, making Beds, and nursing the youngest Children. The Boys and Girls that can work, are set to spin Jersey for the Drapers, who pay them by the pound for their Work. As soon as they are grown up, they are bound out Apprentices. Before they can do any Work, they are sent to the Charity-School, and taught to read and learn their Catechism. And the Minister of the Parish is so good, as to look in sometimes, and recommend to all of them a due Care of their Morals, their Duty to the

King, and Magistrates; that the elder set good Examples to the younger; that Morning and Evening the Children be taught their Prayers; and that no Rudeness be seen among them. The oldest People creep out to Church upon Prayer Days, and a large Pew is erected by the Church-Wardens for all the Poor that will come on *Sundays*. They did use to come with the Master in pretty decent Manner to Church on *Sunday* Mornings, but the Master is lately dead.

THE House has been erected between 7 and 8 Years, and you see the Scheme of their Management; and tho' I cannot say 'tis so perfect as might be wish'd, yet the Disbursements for the Poor are considerably moderated. For before this House was set up, the Assessments for the Poor were yearly from four Shillings in the Pound to five, which did commonly amount to 300*l. per Annum*. But since the Parish fell into this Method, the Disbursements were reduc'd in 1721. to 197*l. 11 s. 0 d. ½.* in 1722. to 177*l. 5 s. 7 d. ¾.* Before the Year 1721. the old Book is mislaid, but the Year 1723. must be consider'd as extraordinary for the greatest part of it, by reason of the *Small Pox*, which raged for three or four Months among all Ranks and Ages in a prodigious Manner, where Families were numerous, the Distemper seized them almost all at once, and two or three Nurses were commonly put into one Family at 6, and 8, and sometimes 10 Shillings a Week each of them, and that rais'd our Poor's Taxes that Year to 304*l.* But we are not to consider that Expence as any Objection against the Work-house, which was less harass'd with the Distemper (all Things consider'd) than any other Family in the Town.

AFTER the Building of the House was finish'd, at a general Meeting of the principal Inhabitants, the following Rules were drawn up for the management of the Work-house, having first chose Directors to consider of such Orders as might render this Undertaking Beneficial and Durable.

Orders for the Work-house in the Parish of St. Paul's in Bedford.

I. **T**HAT the Directors have Power to nominate and appoint a Master and Mistress well quality'd for that Trust.

II. **T**HAT no Persons be taken in, or partake of the Provisions of the House, without Order from a Justice of Peace, or the Overseers for the Time being, upon Pain of Exclusion.

III. That the Overseers do direct the Master and Mistress to take particular Care of all Persons, old and young, who are admitted, and capable of Work; that they be Taught and made fit for some Trade, and daily employ'd in Work or Service.

IV. **T**HAT the Poor who are well and healthful, be duly kept to their Work, according to the usual Working Hours of Handycraft Trades, being allow'd sufficient Respite for their Times of Eating: And if any such Person refuse to Work, the Master or Mistress to acquaint the Overseers, that such able, but disorderly idle Person, may be corrected according to Law.

V. **T**HAT none of the said Persons do absent themselves from their Work upon any Pretence whatsoever, without the Leave of the said Master or Mistress; and if upon any reasonable Cause, as Charing, Day-Labour, or the like, they are permitted to go out, and afterwards are found begging, or loitering up and down, to avoid their proper Business in the said House; that Complaint be made to a Justice of Peace of such evil Practice, and the Offender accordingly corrected.

VI. **T**HAT it be the proper Business of the Overseers for the Time being, to buy in and deliver to the said Master or Mistress all manner of necessary Provisions for Eating, Drinking, Clothing, Bedding, Firing, &c. for the said poor People, and also to pro-

vide such Stock of Goods or Wares, as are proper and sufficient to keep them to work, and carry on some beneficial Manufacture, within the said House, as will best turn to account. And that the said Overseers do keep a Book, or Books of Entry of Goods bought, and of the Peoples Work within the said House, and of the Improvements of the said Stock. And that any five or more of the Directors be at all Times admitted to inspect the Books; and that the said Accounts be brought to the Vestry, with the monthly Expence, to be examined.

VII. THAT none do receive Collection of the Parish, but such as are within the Work-house, excepting such as thro' Sickness or Largeness of their Families, or other Straitness of Circumstances and Incapacity, are judg'd fit to receive a little Relief upon some Emergency, or in Case of Pestilential Diseases, Lunacy, or the like; of all which, the Overseers or Justices to be the proper Judges.

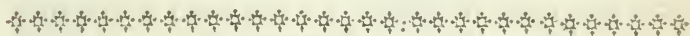
VIII. THAT the Directors, or any two of them, as often as they judge it needful, do meet at the said Work-house, and examine into all Disorders of the Poor, and into the Management of the Master and Mistress, and see that due Care be taken for all manner of wholesome, necessary and sufficient Provisions. As also to hear the Complaints and real Grievances of the Poor.

IX. THAT the Master and Mistress take Care that all the poor People be kept clean and neat in their Persons and Apparel, and the Children be taught and instructed in civil and good Behaviour, in Reading, Knitting, Spining, Sewing, and other kinds of Domestick and honest Labour, and take Care of their own Examples; and see that all of them who are able do repair to some Place of religious Worship, upon the *Lord's-Day*; and be instructed Morning and Evening in their Prayers; and that no Immorality, or Profaneness, or Rudeness be allow'd in the House; nor the Poor suffer'd to wander idly, but religiously observe the *Lord's-Day*.

X. THAT

X. THAT the said Master and Mistress do take Care that no Goods or Work that shall be done or wrought in the House, be embezzled, nor Provisions or Stores be improvidently wasted, or suffer'd to putrify or gather Uncleaness, or any other Way be misapplied. And if any such Embezzlement, or ill Housewifery shall be detected, then Complaint shall be made by the Master or Mistress, or any other Person aggrieved, against the Party offending, to one or more Justices of the Peace, that such Disorders may be punished, and further Damages may be the sooner prevented.

XI. THAT the Faults and Disorders of the said poor People, whether old or young, who refuse or condemn the Reproofs of the Master or Mistress, or utter ill Language against them, or neglect their Instructions, be recorded in a Book to be kept for that Purpose; and laid before the Directors or Overseers, that, by their Authority and Admonitions, Rudeness, Wickedness and Dishonesty may be restrained, and Peace and good Order maintained, and that a Magistrate be solicited to punish all obstinate, perverse and unruly Persons, according to their Crimes.



Luton, Bedfordshire.

SIR,

Sept. 17. 1724.

ACCORDING to your Desire, I made this Place in my Way thro' Bedfordshire, on purpose to give you an Account of the present State of the Work-house here: I had no sooner taken up my Quarters at the Inn, but I inform'd my self of the Way to the Work-house, which is here call'd a *House of Maintenance for the Poor*, to soften the Appellation of a Work-

Work-house, against which the Poor in the House might be prejudic'd. Here I found Mr. *Marryott*, a *Buckinghamshire* Man, who has been very active and successful in setting up Work-houses in this and the neighbouring Countries, and the following Account I had from himself.

THERE are at present in the House, 10 Men and 10 Women, from 40 to 80 Years old, and 8 Boys, and thirteen Girls, from 3 to 12 Years old, making in all 41. These being very old and infirm, or very young and helpless, you must think, little is to be expected from their Labour, where Nursing is the chief Business of the House: And yet there are few of them, but what do bend their Hands to the little Employment they are put to, which is platting of Wheat Straws; this being a very fine Country for the Product of that Grain, affords a very beautiful Straw, which is therefore pitch'd upon as the properest Manufacture to employ the Poor in; and the Farmers are thereby encourag'd to draw the finest Straws, and cut off the Beards before the Wheat is thresh'd, which they make up into Bundles as large as a Wheat-Sheaf, and sell to the House for 4*d.* a Bundle. A very skilful Woman, who is a Dependant upon the Parish, instructs the rest to do their Work well, and make no waste. Of the worst Work they make ordinary Hats and Bonnets, and of the best Work, they make very good Hats, which may be sold there for 4 Shillings a piece, but at *London* would be worth near double the Money: And with good Management, out of one Bundle, 3 Hats may be made, by which you may judge of the great Improvement there is made of this little Vegetable, which, in other Countries, serves only to litter Horses, and turn to Dung for manuring the Land.

THE *House* is an old commodious Building, hired by the Parish for 9*l.* per *Annum*, and will accommodate about 80 Persons very well; here they are lodg'd and dieted in a clean wholesome Manner; some of the Furniture being found by the People
that

that come into the House; and the rest at the Charge of the Parish.

As to *Provisions*, there is laid in every Week, of Beef, Mutton, or Veal, according to the Seasons of the Year when they are cheapest, so much as serves the whole Family: And, at this Time, about

60 l. of Beef at 2 d. $\frac{1}{4}$ per Pound	} serve a Week.
10 l. of Cheese at 3 d. per Pound	
2 l. of Butter at 6 d. per Pound	
4 Gal. of Milk at 4 d. per Gal.	

This being a great *Malt* Country, they buy very good *Table Beer* for 2 s. 6 d. a small Cask of 25 Gallons each; and as to *Flower, Bread, Roots*, and other Articles, you will guess at the Consumption, by the following *Bill of Fare*.

	<i>Breakfast.</i>	<i>Dinner.</i>	<i>Supper.</i>
Sunday	Bread & Cheese	Beef and Turnips	Bread & Cheese
Monday	Beef Broth	Milk thicken'd with Flower	The same
Tuesday	Milk Porridge	Bak'd Plumb Pudding	The same
Wednesday	Milk Porridge	Beef and Turnip, or Cabbage	The same
Thursday	Beef Broth	Rice Milk	The same
Friday	Milk Porridge	Beef and Cabbage, or Carrots	The same
Saturday	Beef Broth	Hasty Pudding	The same

I believe it would not be unacceptable to you, to know upon what Terms Mr. *Marryott* is engag'd by the Parish to undertake the Oversight and Direction of this House; and therefore I shall subjoyn the Form of his Contract, and the Copy of a Certificate of the Success of his Management, sign'd by the Church-Wardens, Overseers, and Vestry of this Parish, and remain,

SIR, &c.

THE

THE Contract is dated *May 30. 1722.* and in the same Form with that of *Hemel-Hempstead* in *Hertfordshire*, at Page 72. *Mutatis Mutandis.*

A Copy of the Certificate of the Success of Mr. Marryott's Management.

WE whose Names are under-written, do hereby certify whom it may concern, That the Year's Charge from *Easter 1723*, to *Easter 1724*, for the Poor, on all Accounts, and for Law, and all By-Charge, only amounts to the Sum of *209 l. 15 s. 2 d.* And we do further certify, That our yearly Charge, notwithstanding having a House of Maintenance for eleven Years before Mr. *Matthew Marryott* was concern'd; The eight last Years equally divided, the Charge of the Poor, one Year with another, was *667 l. 7 s. 2 d. ½.* The eight Years whole Sum was *5339 l. 7 s. 2 d.* And that the Poor are in Number *41.* and all well fed, lodg'd and Cloath'd. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our Hands at a publick Vestry, this 7th Day of *April, 1724.*

Sign'd by the Minister, Church-Wardens, Overseers, and principal Inhabitants.

Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

SIR,

Oct. 3. 1724.

THE Number of Poor maintain'd in this Work-house amounts to 80 young and old. The Children Spin all in one large Room, under the Inspection of a Master; they make Yarn for *Normich*, as good
and

and true as any is made. The *Wool* is bought by two Managers, chosen by the Parish, of the Grazier, for ready Money.

THE whole Number above-mentioned lie in the Work-house; the *Boys* in a Chamber by themselves, 3 in a Bed; and the *Girls* in another Chamber, 3 in a Bed: After the same Manner likewise are the elderly People disposed of; of these only 2 in a Bed.

THEIR Diet is good Beef, Broth, Dumplings, Pease Porridge, Milk Porridge, Bread and Cheese; the Quantity according to every one's Stomach at *Noon*; at *Morning* and *Night* not so much, given out by the Mistress of the *Kitchen*.

THE idle, disorderly and lazy, are punishable at the Discretion of the Magistrate. The sick and infirm are not taken into the *Work-house*, but put out at the best Hand; and so are Infants till they are big enough to learn to Read, and then they are brought in and taught to Read, Write and Spin.

THE *Master's* Wages are 10*s.* per Week; the *Mistress* has 10*l.* per Annum, whose Business is to look after the *Kitchen*, and to make and mend all the *Linnen*. The poor Women *Card* and *Spin* for *Shifts* and *Shirts* for the whole Family, and likewise *Knit* all the *Stockings*.

THEY Bake their own *Bread*, and Brew their own *Drink* at the best Hand; and besides the Income from every one's Labour, the Charge weekly of the whole House is about 18*d.* per Head. The Master, Mistress, and the whole House, are under the Direction of the *Managers*, viz. Four or more of the most prudent Persons of the Parish. This Method of providing for the Poor has brought down the Rates, from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* in the Pound, and the Poor much better provided for.

I had almost forgot to tell you, that whereas the weekly Charge of the House is 1*s.* 6*d.* per Head, including the Benefit of their Work; this needs a little Explanation, for the Work-house cost the Inhabitants 2000*l.* Building, and the Interest of that

Money is paid, as well as the Poor maintain'd, at the above-mention'd Rate.

THERE are Houses also at *Lin, Chateris, Mildenhall*, and one Building at the City of *Ely*. But the House at *Wisbech*, of which I have given you this particular Account, is the Pattern for all the rest in the *Isle of Ely*; the Method there us'd for maintaining the Poor, is, as I take it, the best Method that can be devis'd for that purpose; and what all their Neighbours, as near as they can, endeavour to imitate. In truth, as it is the best Method, so, in my Opinion, 'tis the only Method that can be made use of with any Success; the want of a convenient House for the purpose; of discreet and honest Managers to inspect the whole; of laying in Provisions at the best Hand; of a frugal Housewifely Woman to be Mistress of the Kitchen; of buying in the Wool at the cheapest Rates; and, lastly, of an understanding and sober Man to be Master of the Work, to deal out the Wool, and see that it be well spun, and well fold, and that all the respective Members of the Family do their proper Business; I say, the want of these, or any of these Particulars, would soon bring the whole Design to nothing.



Peterborough, Northamptonshire.

SIR,

Nov. 14. 1724.

I Receiv'd yours of *November 10.* and do heartily approve and commend the good Design of publishing some Account of *Work-houses*, and the *Working Charity Schools*; which will certainly tend to the Promoting of Christian Knowledge, by the effectual Ways and Means of obliging young and old to the Practice of the best Duties in our Holy Religion; those of Obedience, Sobriety and Industry, with hearing the
Scrip-

Scriptures read to them, and resorting frequently to the Church.

THE Work-house in this City meets with great Encouragement, and gives universal Satisfaction, and has set the laudable Example to some other neighbouring Towns, particularly to *Wisbech*, and *Whit-lesea* in the *Isle of Ely*.

THE enclosed Account of *Peterborough* is from an honest and able Inhabitant of the Parish, who will be ready to answer any other Questions if there be Occasion for them.

N. B. The Account enclosed was as follows.

The Number of the aged poor People now in this Work-house is	}	30. Those that are able employ'd in Knitting.
The Number of Children is	}	19. Those that are able —employ'd in Spinning.
		49. In all.

The Expence for Maintaining the House from <i>Lady-Day</i> 1724, to <i>Mi-</i> <i>chaelmas</i> following, in Victuals and Drink, including Apparel and Bed- ding,	}	l. s. d. 159 5 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Product of the Labour of the Poor at the same time	}	10 15 3 $\frac{3}{4}$

Out of Purse 148 10 1 $\frac{1}{4}$

Their Weekly *Bill of Fare*, is much the same as at *Luton* in *Bedfordshire*, Pag. 87.

THE Manager of the Work-house is Mr. *Marryott*, whose Salary, by a Contract made between him and the Parish, on the 30th of *October* 1722, is fifty Pounds a Year, and a Coat of 30 Shillings Value. And the Savings to the Parish out of the former Charge for maintaining the Poor, will best appear by the following Certificate, viz.

At a Vestry held the 8th Day of October 1723.

WE, whose Names are here under-written, Parishioners and Inhabitants of *St. John Baptist, Peterborough*, do certify whom it may concern, That *Mr. Matthew Marryott* hath put our Parish into such Regulation, touching the Poor of our said Parish, by Erecting a House of Maintenance for the Feeding, Lodging and Cloathing all the Poor of the said Parish, that shall want Relief from the Parishioners, whereby the Parish Rates are likely to come to less than one half of what they formerly were, which for the last 8 Years, one with another, was

499 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.* $\frac{1}{4}$

But the first half Year, since the

Erecting the House of Maintenance, buying of Furniture, Brewing Vessels, Cloathing, and Repairs, amounts to	}	220	13	5	$\frac{1}{4}$

The last half Year, since <i>Lady-Day</i> , amounts only to	}	113	14	6	$\frac{5}{4}$

Sign'd by the *Minister, Church-Wardens, Overseers,*
and principal *Inhabitants.*

Oundle, Northamptonshire.


SIR,

Decemb. 7. 1724.

IT is now five Years since this Town, burthen'd with the Poor's Taxes, resolv'd in a Vestry to purchase a House for the Maintenance and Employment of the Poor, who were as full of Idleness, as they

they were of Complaints, and they chose seven Governours and Trustees, beside the two Overseers, who are chosen annually; there is a Master and Mistress appointed to take Care of Provisions for the House, and to keep those employ'd who are able to Work; there are now in the House (and there is generally about the same Number) six old Men, five old Women, and nine Children; the Women and Children are employ'd in Spinning and Knitting: And the Men and Boys, who are able, are sent to Plow for the Farmers, and feed and look after their Cattle at Home; the Profits arising from their Labour, which is generally about six Shillings *per Week*, the Master of the House accounts for once a Week to the Trustees; and the Expences of the House, which he also lays before them as often, is usually about 40 s.

THIS, Sir, is, I doubt, but a confus'd Account, but however I beg Leave to add one Circumstance more, which, I believe, will be a good Encouragement to others to take the same, or some other like Method; that whereas the Overseer's Bill before us'd to rise to half a Crown in the Pound *per Annum*, often, and seldom or never less than 2 s. they now come to no more than ten Pence, or eleven Pence; so that, upon a fair Calculation, the Town is eas'd of two thirds of their Charge, and yet I assure you the Poor are provided for in a very plentiful Manner, and have every thing necessary or convenient in Life.

 BEFORE the Account of Work-houses in this County is clos'd, it may not be unacceptable to the Reader to present him with two Accounts of *Working Charity-Schools*, viz. at *Artleborough*, and *Thingdon*, as they were communicated a few Years since: And tho' there may be some Alterations in them for the better, it is hoped, the Examples, as they are, may be of Use to be imitated in other Places.

Artle-

Artleborough, Northamptonshire.

THE School consists of more than 60 Children of both Sexes taught upon Charity, under the Care of one Mistress, assisted by her Husband, whose Industry and good Management has so much recommended itself, that about 40 other Children of substantial Parents, who pay for the Instruction of their Children, come to be taught with the Charity Children.

THIS School, which now consists of 100 Children, from 4 to 18 Years of Age, began about 20 Years ago, with a small Number taught to read only; and the Mistress, of her own Accord, put the Children upon Spinning and Knitting, and took the Profits of their Labour for her Trouble in Teaching them: Afterwards, to encourage the Childrens Industry, she contented herself with *Two-pence* a Week from the Earnings of those that Spun, *Three-half-pence* a Week from those that Knit, and an Allowance of a *Penny* Weekly for those that only learn'd to Read. And that the Children might gain the more for their own and their Parents Support, Two publick Spirited Persons, one upon the Place, and the other at *London*, (whose Names deserve to be mentioned with Honour, if they would permit it) paid all the *Pence*, *Three-half-pences*, and *Two-pences*, that, according to this Rule, the Mistress was entituled to: So that now only *One penny* a Week is deducted from the Earnings of each Spinner, till the Wheel and Reel are paid for, which they make Use of, and take away when they leave the School: And when any of the Spinners or Knitters want to be cloathed, *Six-pence* a Fortnight is deducted out of their Respective Earnings for that Purpose.

THE Children earn, some *Twelve-pence*, others *Eighteen-pence* or *Two Shillings*, and the most diligent

Two Shillings Six-pence a Week: And the Parents find their Advantage so much in the Children's Learning, that in the *Summer* they send them to School at 5 or 6 a Clock in the Morning, where they continue till 8 or 9 at Night; and in the *Winter* from 6 or 7 in the Morning, till 7 or 8 at Night; allowing only a little Intermission for Dinner.

Two Men, one from *Northampton*, and the other from *Wellingborough*, supply the School every Fortnight with Jersey (or Wool prepar'd) for Spinning, and Yarn for Knitting, and at the same time pay for the Earnings of the Children: Most of what is Spun, is carried to *Coventry*, to be wrought into Stuffs, Serges, Shalloons, and other Things.

ONE of the publick Spirited Persons above-mentioned did, about nine Years ago, build a large House, which will hold, on two Floors, 56 Wheels, so contriv'd, that the Mistress might see both Floors at the same time, and direct all the Children at Pleasure.

THERE is a Charity Box at the Door, which is open'd once a Year, and the Money found therein equally distributed among the Children.

THE Mistress takes all the Children one Day after Harvest into the Bean-Fields, where they gather and lay in Heaps, as much Bean stubble as serves them for Firing all Winter; the Farmers, at their Leisure, carrying it to the School-House *Gratis*. And, upon all Considerations, the Contributions for upholding this School do not generally exceed *Twenty Pounds per Annum*; whereas the Profits of it every Fortnight, are from *Twenty* to *Twenty Five Pounds*, which is 5 or 600 *l. per An.* benefit to the Town.

THE Work of these Children is so ordered, that it is no Manner of hindrance to their Learning to Read, and say the Catechism, the Common Prayer, the Collects for the Day, the Bible, and other useful Books of Instruction; and one of the Trustees of the Charity of the late *Philip Lord Wharton*, furnishes them Annually with Bibles, and other Good Books.

Findon, *alias* Thingdon, Northamptonshire.

IN the Charity School at this Place, 20 poor Girls are set to Work, Taught, Lodg'd and wholly maintained, after the following Manner.

16 Girls are constantly kept to Spinning Jersey, at which they earn Weekly 1 *l.* 4 *s.* They are never task'd at above 4 *d.* a Day, and all that the Great Girls get besides they have for themselves, the little Girls are task'd as they are able to Spin, 2 *d.* or 3 *d.* a Day.

THE other 4 Girls, who are call'd *Houfewifes*, take their Turns in doing the Work in the Family; whilst the 3 others learn all Sorts of Work, to fit them for Service, *viz.* Spinning Linnen, Knitting Gloves and Stockings, Sewing, Marking, and Mending all their Cloaths, both Linnen and Woollen; for Tailors are only employ'd to cut out their Mantua's, and plait them, which comes but to 2 *s.* for the 20 Girls; the rest the Mistress and these *Houfewifes* finish; all the *Houfewifes* help to wash; but she, whose Turn 'tis to be Maid, Brews, Milks, gets their Diet, &c. but is over-look'd by the Mistress or Dame, to see she does it as she ought.

THESE Girls get about 60 *l.* a Year towards their Maintenance, besides Spinning their own Linnen, Knitting their own Stockings, and every other Year Spinning their Woollen Cloaths, for they, being made of strong Serges, last them two Years.

As to their Learning to Read, &c. the Mistress teaches three of them at a Time, who are call'd out of the Spinning Room, and read as long as she thinks proper; and then three others succeed, till they are all heard, every Morning and Afternoon.

THE *Houſewifes* alſo read a Chapter Morning and Afternoon; but they being perfect in Reading before they are taken to be Houſewifes, ſpend leſs Time in it than the others.

THE Girls read alſo the Chapters and Pſalms, appointed for the Evening Service, after Supper, Verſe by Verſe, as they ſit round the Table; but not ſo after Breakfast, becauſe they read them, for the Morning, at Church. The Girls take it by Turns to ſay Prayers in the Family Morning and Evening, which every one of them learns without Book; and they alſo by Turns ſay Grace at their Meals.

SUNDAYS and other Holy-Days are a good Part ſpent in reading the *Bible*, the *Whole Duty of Man*, and other Books printed chiefly for the Uſe of Charity-Schools: They who have the beſt Memories, get the Expoſition of the Church-Catechiſm without Book, and then teach and examine the reſt whiſt they ſpin; and by theſe Means are very perfect in it on *Sundays*, when they are catechized at Church.

THEY are likewiſe taught to ſing Pſalms; which they praſtiſe at their Wheels.

THE four Houſewiſes are taught to write and caſt Accompts, which they do very well; when they are ſent out to Service, four others are choſen out of the ſpinning Room to ſucceed them.

THESE Girls go to Church every Day: And when paſt 16, go to the Monthly Sacrament, when examined and approved of by the Miniſter. They commonly ſtay till 17, before they go to Service.

ALL of them, as ſoon as they can read handſomely, carry a New Teſtament and Common-Prayer Book to Church with them; but none of them has a Bible given them, till they can ſay *Our Saviour's Sermon upon the Mount*, and the Expoſition of the Church-Catechiſm, perfectly without Book; and likewiſe ſuch Prayers and Colleſts as are appointed by the Order of the School.

No Girl is ſuffer'd to go out, except to Church, on *Sunday*, which hath not got the Colleſt for that

Week without Book; but those that have, are suffer'd to go Home, and see their Parents, after the Evening Prayers are over.

THE Provisions for supporting this School seldom exceed weekly,

- 1 Bushel of Wheat for Bread, all the Week long, Pudding, and Dumplings, for Dinner *Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.*
- 1 Quart of Frumenty Wheat for Frumenty.
- 2 Bushels of Barley for Brewing.
- 3 Quart of Pease for Pease Porridge for *Wednesday* Dinner.
- 22 Pounds of Meat, for Meat and Broth, *Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.*
- 10 Pounds of new Milk Cheese for Suppers every Evening.

FROM *Michaelmas* to *May-Day*, they have hot Breakfasts of their own dressing: At *Christmas* they learn to make minc'd Pies, and at other Times Cheese-Cakes, and Apple-Pies, as the Season of the Year affords the Materials for them: Their own Dairy supplies them plentifully with Milk and Butter good part of the Year, and leads them to understand Housewifry.



Leicestershire.

SIR,

Leicester, Octob. 10. 1724.

THERE being a great Number of Poor, whose Rent for the Houses was paid by the Parishes in which they liv'd: Three Parishes in this Town, viz. *St. Margaret's* in 1714, *St. Martin's* in 1722, and *St. Mary's* in 1723, successively built Alms-houses, with proper Apartments for lodging all their respective Poor: And by this Means the Charge of House-Rent was considerably abated, many of the
Poor

Poor choosing rather to pay their own Rent, than go into these Houses.

IN the Year 1723, *St. Margaret's* Parish resolved to convert their Parish Houses into a Work-house; and for that Purpose, erected two other Houses at the End of the former, for lodging of a Master, and for a working Room, a Kitchen, Cellar, and other Conveniencies, made a Pump, and inclosed the whole with a Wall; and, having provided all necessary Utensils, set up House-keeping for the Poor at *Christmas* last.

IN *April* last, the Parish of *St. Martin's* likewise determin'd to convert their Parish-Houses into a Work-house, by joyning two of the lower Apartments into one, for a working Room, and fitting up two others for a Kitchen, a Cellar, &c. and furnishing them as *St. Margaret's* had done theirs. And of this Parish of *St. Martin's*, I will give you a particular Account.

THE Parish first made Choice of a Master, who has the immediate Care of the Poor, to keep them in Order, and imploy them in such Work as they are capable of, and see that their Food is duly prepar'd and given to them, &c. He has two Apartments assign'd to him, his Diet and Washing, and 12 *l. per Annum* Salary.

THE Parish Overseers buy all Things necessary for the House, and the Poor in it: For their Cloathing, they buy whole Pieces of Woollen and Linnen; which, when cut out, is made up into Cloaths, by such of the Poor as are capable of it.

THE Overseers, about once in a Month, send in five Strike of Malt, which the Master brews at once into good Drink; and every *Saturday* the Overseers buy for them a sufficient Quantity of good wholesome Meat, and send it to the Master.

IF any of the Poor fall sick, a proper Provision is made for them, and some of their Fellow Poor are appointed to attend them.

THEY are all confined within the Precincts of the House, and are not to go out of it without Leave of the Master; if any of them have Employment Abroad, they are oblig'd to return in a due Hour; and whoever employs them, agrees with the Master for the Wages, and pays them to him; which, together with the Product of the Labours of the rest, he delivers to the Overseers every *Friday* in the Evening, who then take the Accounts from the Master; and add out of the Parish Stock, what is wanting for making Provision for the following Week.

THE general Method for employing them (besides what is abovementioned) is in spinning Jersey; such as can't spin, are set to knit Stockings for the rest, and one is appointed to teach the Children to read.

THE Time of working is twelve Hours in the Day Winter and Summer.

THE Number of the Poor at present is 28, viz. 16 old, and 12 under Eight Years of Age.

THE Product of their Labours, one Week with another, is about 14 s. the Charge of maintaining them weekly is about 40 s. that is about 26 s. above their Labour.

THE Charge of maintaining the Poor us'd to be about 250 l. or 300 l. a Year. The Charge this Year in cloathing the Poor, upon placing them in the Work-house, and buying Utensils, &c. is much greater than can be in future Years; and yet the Overseer assures me, that he is confident the Parish will even this Year save 100 l.

THE Children have a Form plac'd in the Alley, before the Seat of the Parish Officers, to sit upon on *Sundays*; but there is no particular Place as yet assign'd to the elder Poor at Church.

SINCE my writing what foregoes, I have at length met with the Person who has had the chief Management of the Affair in *St. Margaret's* Parish; who tells me, that before the building of the Parish-Houses

Houses in 1714, they paid above 30*l. per Annum* Rent for the Poor; and that the whole Charge to the Poor was about 300*l. per Annum*; for defraying which, they levied 4*s.* in the pound Rent. For building the Houses, they borrowed 240*l.* and reduced their Levies from 4*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* by which Levies so reduced, they paid off the 240*l.* in 5 Years.

ABOUT 1720, the Poor began to increase again, so that there was little or no further Abatement in their Levies.

1723, They borrowed 200*l.* for making Alterations and the additional Buildings, &c. for the Work-house, which, he believes, will save the Parish two thirds of their former Levies.

BEFORE the setting up the Work-house, the weekly Payments to the Poor were 3*l.* 5*s.* or thereabouts, besides *By-bills*, as they are called, which oft amounted to 20*s.* or 30*s.* more; but since then, he supposes that a Levy of 16*d.* in the pound will defray their Charge; nevertheless they at present levy more, in order to pay off the 200*l.* which they borrowed.

THE Salary of the Master, the Number of the Poor in the Work-house, and the Orders of Management, are much the same as in St. *Martin's* Parish, saving that they trust the Master himself to buy the Provisions.

THE Small-Pox being this Year very rife in the Town, they make some Allowance to poor Families visited with them, which are not in the Work-house; which occasions the weekly Charge of the Poor to be about 40*s.* over and above the Product of the Labours of those in the Work-house, which varies according to Circumstances, from 8*s.* to 15*s.*

THEY have bought about 11 Ton of Coals, to serve the House for the Year current, and allow two strike of Malt for a Hoghead of Beer, and the Poor have hot Meat three times a Week.

THE Parish of St. *Mary* are about setting up their Work-house, but it is not yet settled.

Lutterworth, *Leicestershire.*

SIR,

Nov. 9. 1724.

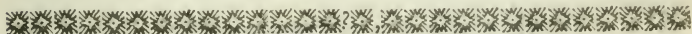
THERE has been a Work-house at this Place about three Years, and the first Year we put our Poor into it, our Poor's Levy was abated more than a fourth Part, tho' we paid a Salary to one for looking after them. But not being well provided with a Governour, we were several Times obliged to change, which put us to something more Charge. This obliged us to alter our Method from what it was: Before we agreed for a certain Sum, as 90 or 100 *l.* for their Maintenance, and all that concerned them, as House-Rent, Food, Physick, Cloathing, &c. excepting only Charges at Law, in cases of Controversy. But this Year we have built them a convenient House upon our own Ground, and out of their own Number make Choice of the most prudent one or more to look after the rest. And our Overseers of the Poor, in their several Quarters, buy in their Provisions at the best hand for them, and furnish them with all other Necessaries as they come to be wanted; and keep a Book of Accompts, in which they put down all particulars of what Money they lay out, and what they receive for the Poor's Work, as spinning, winding Quills, washing Abroad in the Town, or other Day Labour, more or less, whatever they do; for all which their Inspector is accountable, and every Week this abates sometimes 6, 7, or 10 *s.* of what is laid out for them.

THERE are at present but about 20 in it, of which five or six are Children, whom they are allow'd to send to School to be taught to read and write.

THIS Method is like to succeed best, and as our old People wear off, and our young grow up, 'twill be less chargeable every Year.

THEY

THEY live much more comfortably thus in common, than they could have done in their private Houses, with three times the Sum, on *Collections*, as they call it. Their Pot boils every Day, they have their Cow and Pasture for Milk, their Hog in their Yard, a large Garden to air themselves in, and there be few of our Farmers that live more comfortably than they do.



Harborough, *Leicestershire*.

SIR,

Octob. 19. 1724.

THE Number of those maintain'd in the Work-house here is seventeen, *viz.* 8 old, and 9 young, almost all of them unable to do any Work for their Livelihood, except three Boys, who are employ'd in working for Weavers, which brings in about 4 *s.* per Week. As to the Subsistence of the Poor, the Inhabitants have agreed, that each of them will take it by Turns, one, one Week, and another, another, to buy in Provision. Their Expence now only amounts to 100 *l.* per *Annum*; whereas before it was above 170 *l.* They allow a Man 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a Week, to keep them in good Order, to cut their Viſtuals, and to teach the Children to read.

It is not yet two Years since it was first begun, and was design'd chiefly to lessen the Poor-Livies, which were grown very great, and were likely to increase, and in Reference to this it has already had a very good Effect, and 'tis hop'd in Time it will turn to a much better Account. The Number of Poor was great, that is, of idle People, who desir'd Collection, and, if refus'd it, would make their Complaint to a Justice of the Peace, and sometimes get an Order, or Warrant, some for two Shillings, some three

three Shillings, some for four Shillings *per Week*, with which the Parish was exceedingly perplexed, and were thereby put upon setting up the Work-house; nor are they now pester'd with their Poor, as they were wont to be: For if they come to the Officers for Collection, they take them into the Work-house, and employ those that are able, and keep them to Work. Those that are decrepid, or decay'd by old Age, or any ways unable, they maintain.

THE Work-house is a well contriv'd Building, in Form of a Court four-square, with several Apartments for lodging, and other Conveniencies. There is a Hall, or long Room, with Tables and Benches, where they have their set Meals, and where afterwards they may spin; and in Summer the young Boys or Girls may spin in the Court. They have laid in a Provision of several Cheeses, and of Coals, for which they have convenient Places. At present, as far as I can perceive, it may be call'd rather an *Alms-house*, than a *Work-house*; those who are able to *work*, do not care to come into it, because of the Confinement to which they must then be subject: For it is an Order of the House, not to suffer those who come into it for Maintenance, or for Work, to go out, or to ramble Abroad to beg, as they us'd to do. They are kept close to their Work and Business, which is the Reason why they have so few in the House, notwithstanding they are so well provided for with Necessaries. For they give no Collection now to any, as they did formerly. They have taken upon them to provide either Maintenance or Work for their Poor, *viz.* such of them as want work. But there is little Danger of that. For poor People are now generally got into the Way of spinning Jersey, which turns to a good Account, for they can have ready Money for their Work, and some earn 6 *d.* *per Day* at least, if they can spin well, and are diligent at it.

Cirencester,

Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

SIR,

Decemb. 30. 1724.

THE Work-house at this Place is but in Embrio as yet, and therefore you are not to expect a particular Account of it. All I can say, at present, is, that the Vestry of the Parish, in pursuance of the Powers granted by a late Act of Parliament on the 15th of *October* last, made a Contract with a substantial Inhabitant of the Town to take the Care of the Poor upon himself at *Lady-Day* next for three Years to come, and to allow him fifty Pounds a Year, and a Deputy or two with not above 10*l.* a Year Salary for each. He is by this Contract impower'd to borrow 200*l.* upon Interest, with which he is to fit up *Chesterton-House*, (being an old Substantial, large House adjoining to the Town, not in it) with a little Barn thereto belonging, and Part of the Court or Backside for a Work-house, being given to the Parish by a Person of Quality for this Purpose: And when fitted up, this Undertaker is to receive all the Poor, who receive Collection of the Parish into it; He is to be their Master, and is to provide all necessary Tools and Utensils for employing them, in the Woollen and Yarn Manufacture, being the proper Business of this Town, and to Sell the Work when done; He is to Buy in all necessary Provisions and Household Goods for the House, and Apparel for the Poor in it.

THE Overseers of the Poor, and their Successors, are to cease paying the Poor, during the said three Years, and to pay all such Rates as shall be collected in that time into his Hands, who is to account with the Parish at a Vestry every six Weeks. The Rates in 1723. amounted to 650*l.* tho' the Town was as healthy as ever, and Wages seldom higher.

Bisciter, Oxfordshire.

SIR,

June 19. 1725.

LAST Summer I gave you an Account of the Trustees agreeing to Employ the Children of the Charity School at this Place, in some useful Labour besides their Learning; but this Design was then laid aside, thro' the Mistake or Obstinacy of the Children's Parents.

I am now to acquaint you with some further Proceedings in the same Affair.

A Gentleman in this Neighbourhood, who subscribes very largely to the School, declared, that unless the Children were employ'd in some Sort of Work, to accustom them to Labour, he would withdraw his Subscription.

UPON hearing of this, the Treasurer call'd a Meeting of the Trustees, and reported the Matter to them, and, after Debate, it was agreed, the Children should be employ'd in Spinning Jersey. A Woollen Garter-Weaver in the Town was sent for, and he agreed to supply them with Work; a Person is fix'd on to learn them to Spin; Utensils are bought, and they have just now made a Beginning.

It is propos'd, that they shall work only the School Hours, and six Boys to work one Day in a Week, and the next Day six others, and so on. This, Sir, is the fairest Account I can at present relate; and I hope such Examples may prove of publick Use.

Beverly,

Beverly, York~~sh~~ire.

SIR,

January 12. 172 $\frac{1}{2}$.

IN answer to your Enquiry, I am to inform you, that the Children of the Charity School of this Place are employ'd in *Spinning Yarn*; the Benefit of which will appear by the following Account.

THE best Spinners earn Two-pence Half-penny a Day, by Spinning five Hanks each Day: The other Spinners spin, some four Hanks, some three, the Learners about two in a Day. Each Hank is a Half-penny Spinning.

THE Wool is sorted two Ways, *viz.* into *Fine* and *Baggin*. The *Fine* is Spun to about 32 or 33 Hanks in a Pound, of which 4 Pound and a half make a Grose; the *Baggin* is spun to about 24 Hanks in a Pound; of which six Pound make a Grose: And the Groses at present are Sold at 12 s. 9 d. each. Four Pound and a half of Comb'd Wool, at 1 s. 4 d. per Pound, come to six Shillings, and these Pounds, when spun, make a Grose of Yarn, which Sold at 12 s. 9 d. there is six Shillings and Nine-pence Profit in each Grose.

An Abstract of the Act of the 9th of King *GEORGE*, Entituled, *An Act for amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Imployment, and Relief of the Poor.*

THE Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of any Parish, with the Consent of the Major Part of the Parishioners, in Vestry, or other publick Meeting for that purpose assembled, upon usual notice given, may purchase or hire any House or Houses in the Parish or Place, and Contract with Persons for the Lodging, Keeping and Employing of poor Persons; and there they are to keep them, and take the Benefit of their Work and Labour, for the better Maintenance and Relief of such Persons. And in Case any poor Person shall refuse to be Lodg'd, Kept and Maintain'd in such House or Houses, such Person shall be put out of the Parish Books, and not entituled to Relief.

WHERE Parishes are small, two or more of such Parishes, with the Approbation of a Justice of Peace, may unite in Purchasing or Hiring Houses for the Purposes aforesaid. And Church-Wardens, &c. of one Parish, with the Consent of the Major Part of the Parishioners, may contract with the Church-Wardens, &c. of any other Parish, for the Lodging and Maintenance of the Poor.

BUT no poor Persons, or their Apprentices, Children, &c. shall require a Settlement in the Parish, Town, or Place to which they shall be removed, by Virtue of this Act.

Note. THIS is a General Law, and extends to all *England.*

Form

*Form of a Contract for Lodging and
Maintenance of Poor, by Virtue
of the Statute 9. GEORGE.*

M*Emorandum.* It is Contracted this Day, &c. in the Year, &c. between *A. B.* and *C. D.* Church-Wardens, and *E. F.* and *G. H.* Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of, &c. and *J. K.* and *L. M.* &c. Yeomen, that they the said *J. K.* and *L. M.* or one of them, shall and will, during the space of, &c. next coming, at their, or one of their own proper Costs and Charges, in the House of, &c. find, provide and allow, or cause to be found, provided and allowed, unto and for *N. O. P. Q. R. S.* &c. poor Persons of the Parish of, &c. aforesaid, sufficient Lodging, Meat, Drink, and all other Things necessary for their, and every of their Keeping and Maintenance: *They*, the said *J. K.* and *L. M.* being paid and allow'd by them the said *A. B. C. D. E. F.* &c. the Church-Wardens and Overseers of, &c. aforesaid, the Weekly Sum of, &c. for the same; which they, the said *A. B. C. D. E. F.* &c. do hereby Covenant, for Themselves and their Successors, well and truly to pay, or cause to be paid to the said *J. K.* and *L. M.* as the same shall become due: Or that they, the said *J. K.* and *L. M.* be allow'd the Work, Labour, and Service of them the said *N. O. P. Q. R. S.* &c. from time to time, in such Work and Labour as they the said *J. K.* and *L. M.* shall think fit to employ them about.

In Witness, &c.



A N

Alphabetical LIST

O F

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Most of which have been lately set up in
the undermentioned COUNTIES.

*Those which refer to any Page, have an Account given of
them in this Book. Those which have this Mark * pre-
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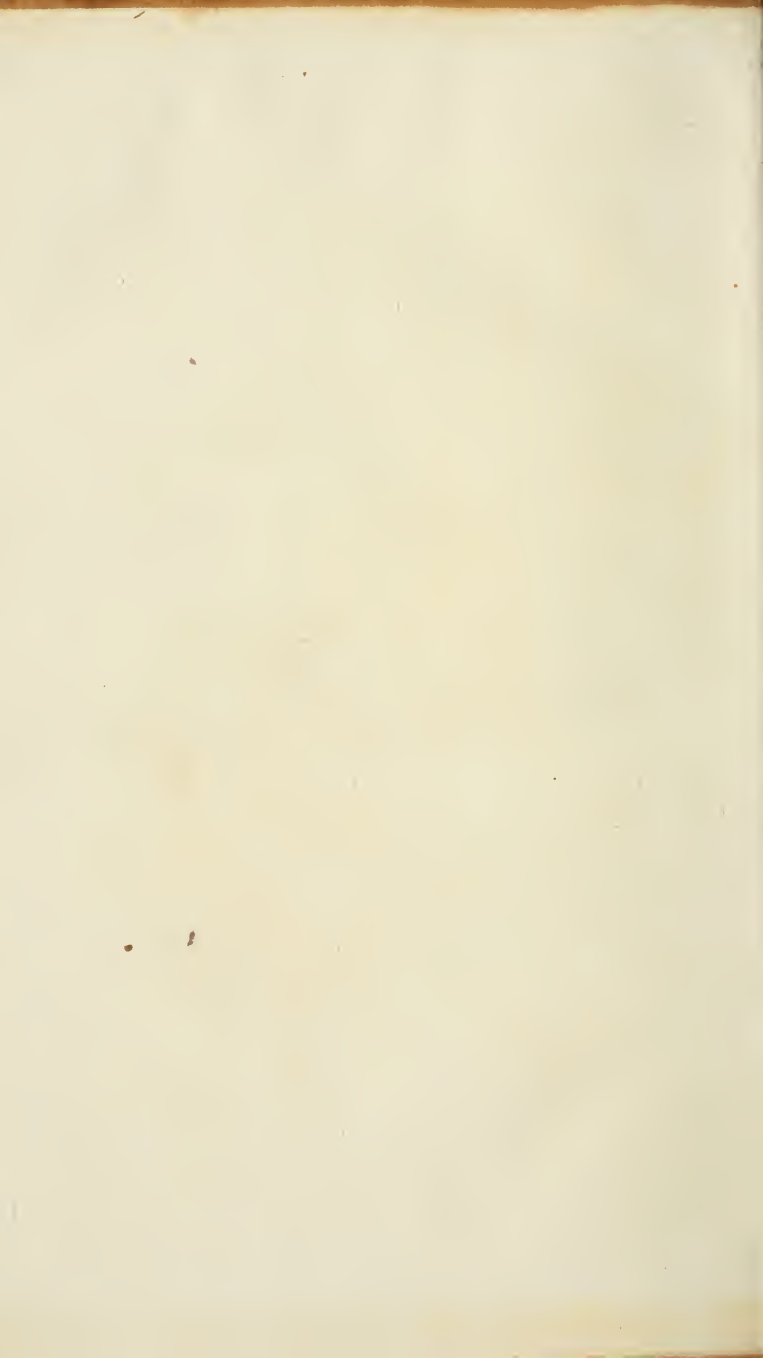
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